The Long Island FISHERMAN

The Largest Weekly Sportfishing Magazine in the United States!

VOLUME 15, NUMBER 3 ★ JANUARY 17, 1980 ★ 15th YEAR OF PUBLISHING

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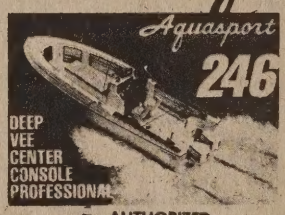

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BOATING

BOATING COURSES

A 12-lesson Boating Skills and Seamanship Course will start Tuesday evening, January 22, at 7:30 p.m. in the Bay Shore Junior High School, located on Brook Avenue, north of Sunrise Highway.

This course, open to adults only (from age 16 up), is offered free of charge by U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 1-5 of Bay Shore. Texts and workbooks are provided all students for $5.

Upon successful completion of the course, students are awarded certificates. Many insurance companies offer holders of these certificates lower boat insurance rates. The certificate is also a prerequisite for membership in the Flotilla, if desired.

Further information about the course may be gotten by telephoning (516) 581-0194.

*****

Skippers and would-be skippers can get an early start on the 1980 boating season by taking a free course in small boat handling to be given at St. Francis College in Brooklyn.

The Brooklyn Power Squadron will conduct registration for the course on Thursday, January 31, at 7PM, at the College, located at 180 Remsen Street, just a half block from the Brooklyn Borough Hall.

Men and women over the age of 16 are invited to attend the 12-week course. Ownership of a boat is not required.

Classes will be held at St. Francis on Thursdays at 7:30 p.m., starting on February 7. The classes cover the techniques of safe handling of outboard and inboard craft, anchoring, tying basic knots, reading charts and plotting courses, use of a mariner's compass, and safety afloat.

The efficient use of power boats for maximum gas mileage will be described. Aids to navigation, such as buoys and radio beacons, are explained in illustrated lectures. And the basic rules of the road for safe operation also are taught to students.

The Brooklyn Power Squadron, a unit of the United States Power Squadrons, conducts the classes without charge to teach those interested in boating the skills they must possess for safety on the water. Additional information can be obtained by calling 768-4714.

BOATING KNOW-HOW

"Without proper training, the novice boater is a menace! He may not only cause accidents with other boats, but endanger the lives of

The Long Island FISHERMAN

The Largest Weekly Sportfishing Magazine in the United States!

Volume 15, Number 3 — January 17, 1980

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About the Cover—

Steve Leeds looks up at the mount of a 2,075-lb. Great White Shark that could easily swallow whole the 180-lb. Mako that he is holding. If you plan on having a fish mounted some day in the future there are certain things you should know about caring for the fish. See page 22.

COMING NEXT WEEK: **SELECTING PARTY BOATS**

Richard Reina — PUBLISHER
Al Ristori — ASSOCIATE EDITOR
Pete Barrett — NEW JERSEY EDITION
Scott J. Simons — MANAGING EDITOR
Fred Golofaro — ASSOCIATE EDITOR
Tim Coleman — NEW ENGLAND EDITION
W.A. Muller — EDITOR
Stu Miller — ADVERTISING MANAGER
Rick Reina — PRODUCTION MANAGER

The LONG ISLAND FISHERMAN is published weekly, except for two weeks in December, by the L.I.F. Publishing Corporation, L.I.F. Building, Bridge St., P. O. Box 1994, Sag Harbor, New York 11963. Telephone: 516-725-4200. Second Class Postage is paid at Sag Harbor, N.Y. $.90 per copy; back issues $.75 per copy. Subscriptions: One Year, 50 issues - $13; Two Years, 100 issues - $24; Three Years, 150 issues - $33. Photographs and written contributions must be accompanied by a written request and a self-addressed, stamped envelope. All consideration will be given these requests; however, no responsibility on our part is assumed. Notice of change of address must include both the old and the new address. Please allow two a for the address change to be made. USPS-582-160.

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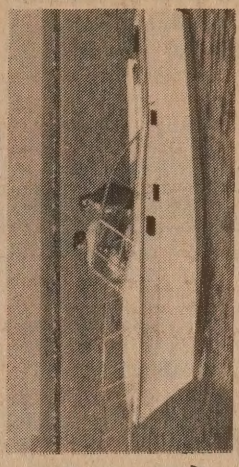

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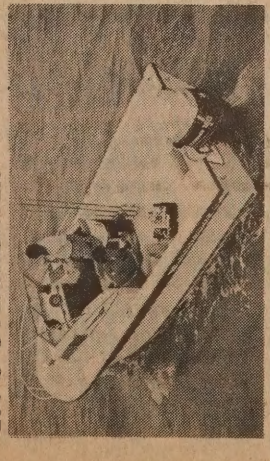

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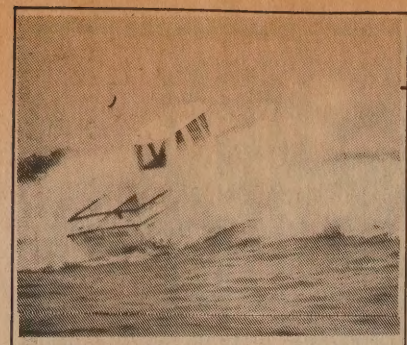

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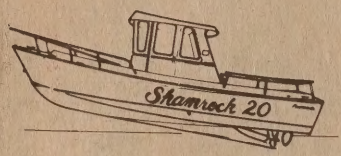

—Some '79's Left—

ROVINA **(516) 728-0922**

himself and his passengers as well. Most people who buy their first boat either assume it will be just like driving a car, or have common misconceptions about lessons, licensing or both," said Len Weisbrot, Flotilla Commander, as he announced the spring schedule of free boating courses by Coast Guard Auxiliary volunteer instructors. "Most are not aware of the excellent training available from the Coast Guard Auxiliary," he added.

The Flotilla 13-8 public education program for 1980 will feature the "Boating Skills and Seamanship" course. This 12-lesson course covers Boat Handling, Aids to Navigation, Compass and Charts, Piloting, Rules of the Road, Radiotelephone, marlinspile Seamanship, Legal Requirements and a number of other subjects which will enable you to operate a boat safely and efficiently. Courses are offered free of charge except for a materials charge and a school district registration fee.

Spring courses will be given at 2 locations: Seaford High School, Seaman's Neck Road, Seaford and Bethpage High School, Stewart Ave, Bethpage. The schedule is as follows:

Seaford H.S.—registration: January 14, 15, 16, 17 at 7:30PM-9PM. Weekly classes begin: January 22, 8PM.

Bethpage H.S.—Registration: January 28, 30 at 7:30 p.m.-9PM. Weekly classes begin: February 5, 8PM.

In addition, Flotilla 13-8 will also offer the N.Y. State Young Boatman course required for all youths between the ages of 10 and 16 who wish to operate a boat by themselves. There are no fees of any kind for this course. You may register at either of the above locations.

For further information regarding any of the above courses, please call Paul Henderson, (516) 785-6779.

*****

Commander Henry Foglino of Huntington's Neptune Power Squadron, a unit of the United States Power Squadrons, has announced the Fall Boating Course schedule. Registration for the free course is at 8PM, Tuesday, January 22, at Old Field Junior High School, Greenlawn Road, Greenlawn; and at 8PM, Wednesday, February 6 at Walt Whitman High School, West Hills Road, Huntington Station. Classes will begin on the same night as registration. There will be a nominal fee of $9 for course material. Late registration will also be accepted before classes the following week. The same course will be offered at both schools. The Neptune Squadron has offered these 10-week courses to boating enthusiasts for over 35 years. Additional information can be obtained by calling 261-3084 or 421-0774.

About as compact and comprehensive a study of elementary boating as one can find, the course is the result of years of teaching to hundreds of men and women. During the approximately two (2) hour class sessions students will receive instruction in all the major categories of safe boat handling including: Course Plotting, Aids to Navigation, Chart Reading, Piloting, Safety Afloat, Government Regulations, Rules of the Road, and many more. The last session of the course is reserved for a final examination and those who pass it receive a certificate of completion.

The students will have homework which should take from 30 minutes to an hour and the arithmetic needed for piloting, navigation calculations is no more complicated than making change or totaling a shopping list.

Students between 12-15 years of age may also register for a special "Young Boaters" course to be held at each school on the same nights as the Basic Boating Course.

*****

A free course in Boating Safety and Seamanship will be given starting at 8PM on Tuesday, February 8, 1980 by Flotilla 13-5 of the U. S. Coast Guard Auxiliary.

The classes will be held at the Merle Avenue Jr. High School, and will cover Rules of the Road, Boat Handling, Charts, Compass & Navigation, Marine Engines, Radio Communications, and Marlinspike.

In addition to furthering their boating skills and knowledge, there is an additional benefit to be gained by taking this course. Most insurance companies will allow a 5% reduction in yacht policy premiums for those policyholders who complete this course.

For additional information, call Capt. George Barrett at (516) 764-5323.

*****

Flotilla 13-3 of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary will begin a ten lesson course in Boating Safety and Seamanship at the Lido Jr. High School on Allevard Street in Lido Beach.

Registration will be held on March 19 and 20, 1980 from 8PM to 10PM at Lido Jr. High School.

Classes will meet once a week beginning on Tuesday, March 25, 1980 at 8PM.

This course is open to the general public. There is a modest fee for materials. For further information, call: Ed Caracciolo (516) 432-4731.

COX MAKES GAS-SAVING MODIFICATIONS IN TRAILER LINE

Cox Trailers of Grifton, N.C., has made gas-saving modifications in its 1980 Fisherman line of trailers. The Fisherman line is basically a conventional-type trailer which Cox has manufactured for many years. For 1980, these trailers have been lowered and widened for less wind resistance and better handling, resulting in better gas mileage. Cox

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President, Wm. F. Cox, stated that these 1980 modifications were made in response to changes in American driving habits. "American driving habits are changing rapidly and the boat trailer industry must be responsive to these changes. Trailer design must match the advances being made in the automotive industry toward smaller, more efficient vehicles."

The Fisherman line of trailers was first produced by Cox in 1963. Though many design modifications have been made over the years, the 1980 changes are much more noticeable. Wider cross members mean trailers are wider overall, and the springs are mounted under the axles on trailers 2000+ pounds capacity. These changes give the trailers a wider, lower stance, which helps smaller cars pull bigger trailers. The low, wide stance also decreases fuel consumption and, according to William Cox, "is a better looking trailer."

Cox Trailers has been producing trailers in Grifton, N.C., since 1903. The Cox lines for 1980 includes the Fisherman Series, the Cox Drive-On Series, and the Cox Superloader Series. The Drive-On Series for 1980 includes two new trailer designs for jon-boats, the CD950 and the CD-1150. Cox has also modified its CD1550 models to accept wider hulls and jon-boats. The Superloaders are lower this year also as Cox continues to match trailers to consumer driving habits.

CLUB NEWS

HIGH & DRY FISHING CLUB

The High & Dry Fishing Club held its annual Awards Dinner on December 8, 1979. A good time was had by all members and their guests. Awards were presented as follows:

Fisherman of the Year: 1st—Pete McCloat, 270 pts.; 2nd—Jack Hasselbring, Jr., 228 pts.

Flounder: Mary Ann Murnich—2 lbs.

Weakfish: J. Caffray—11 lbs. 12 oz.

Fluke: D. Hoffman—4 lbs. 5 oz.

Bluefish: J. Hasselbring, Jr.—12 lbs. 8 oz.

Blackfish: J. Vesik—5 lbs. 6 oz.

The slate of Officers for 1980 were installed at this time and are as follows: President—Jack Hasselbring, Jr.; Vice President—Dan Hoffman; Treasurer—Jeff Hasselbring, and Secretary—Mary Ann Murnich.

NEW CLUB ORGANIZING

A new group called the OUTCASTS Fishing Club is seeking active members for both surf and boat activities. An organizational meeting will be held in Bellmore on Wednesday, February 6, 1980 at 8PM. Please contact Mickey Goldstone at (516) 785-5069 after 6PM if you are interested in fishing, fun, and friendship.

Pass It On...

FRIENDS OF L.I.

The monthly recycle drive of the Friends of Long Island will be held Saturday, January 19 from 10AM to 4PM, at the Pathmark parking field on Merrick Road in Seaford. Look for the Ecology Flag. Materials collected are: newspapers and magazines (tied or untied), aluminum and car batteries.

1980 YEAR OF THE COAST

To focus attention on the value of the Coast and the dangers of further degradation of its vitality, 1980 has been designated Year of the Coast, endorsed by President Jimmy Carter. In conjunction with National efforts of the Coastal Alliance, the Marine Environmental Council of Long Island, Inc. (MECLI), is sponsoring local coastal activities to educate Long Islanders about the importance of protecting, conserving and restoring our Coast. A Long Island "Year of the Coast Journal" is being published that will include articles and photographs concerning the coast of Long Island: fishing, boating, surfing, birding, geology, history, ecology, etc.

The Long Island Coast is a diverse resource that encompasses rocky shores on the north and sweeping white beaches and barrier islands on the south shore. The coastal margin—the thin edge of land and water where people and oceans meet, is actually a complex of valuable and fragile resources: estuaries and lagoons, beaches, bays and harbors, island and marshes. People not only visit the coast for recreation and sport, but whole communities depend upon it for their livelihood. More than 260,000 Americans are commercial fishermen. In 1978 they landed a record six billion pounds of seafood with a retail value of $5.9 billion. Beyond its economic value, the coast has always been a special place for humankind. It nurtures our thoughts, refreshes our spirits, and through the ages has given rise to poetry, mythology, invention and great civilizations. The sea-land relationship is fascinating, unpredictable and alive with beauty. Along our coast, shellfish, birds, plants, finfish and microscopic life

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forms interact constantly in delicate mutual interdependence. Waves, tides, sand, and geological variations of our Continental Shelf combine with weather and changing seasons to create an awesome drama: our richest and most mysterious resource.

The public is invited to join in the planning efforts of the Year of the Coast by the Marine Environmental Council of Long Island, Inc., P. O. Box 55, Seaford, L.I. 11783.

New Products

MORROW HAND HELD FISH FINDER

Morrow Electronics, a leading American manufacturer of electronic boating gear, announces a new concept in digital fish finders. A totally portable, hand-held fish finder/sounder designed for the

sport fisherman: the Fish Ray (TM), DR-100.

The Fish Ray is lightweight—one-and-a-half pounds, and easy to use with trigger action. It can be used in any fishing setting: boating, rafting, or even wading. There is no installation or assembly required. The transducer is sealed right into the nose end.

The Fish Ray is housed in a high-impact seamless plastic case, fully gasketed to be waterproof and floatable. It operates from two nine-volt transistor radio type batteries with a range of 99' and includes an over-range indicator blinker.

For more info, contact: Morrow Electronics, Inc., P.O. Box 7078, Salem, Oregon 97303.

NEW MORROW LORAN REMOTE

Morrow Electronics, a leading American manufacturer of marine electronics, is proud to introduce their new RDR-14 Loran-C "Satellite" Remote. The RDR-14 is equipped with a 25' interface cable, or with an optional 50' cable. The maximum allowable distance between the Remote and the LCA-3450 Loran receiver is 100'. When connected to the LCA-3450, the remote is totally capable of controlling the Loran functions, including independent power on and off switch, plus a memory circuit that stores LOP readout data for later recall when needed.

Other RDR-14 features include continuous update of LOP's, mountable in virtually any position, and adjustable digit light intensity for optimum viewing under all lighting conditions. Also, more than one RDR-14 Remote can be attached to the Loran.

Suggested retail price for the RDR-14 is $595 (with 25' cable).

Contact Morrow Electronics, Inc., Dept LIF, P.O. Box 7078, Salem, Oregon 97303.

NEW PRODUCTS HIGHLIGHT SHIMANO'S 1980 FISHING TACKLE CATALOG

After last year's unprecedented growth, Shimano's Fishing Tackle Division would seem hard pressed for an encore—not so! In fact, one look at their 1980 Fishing Tackle Catalog is enough to convince even the casual observer that Shimano's expanded product line will carry them to new heights in the coming season.

The catalog is in itself a work of creative genius. Colorful product shots are complementedby on-the-water action photographs that show Shimano fishermen doing battle with some of the world's toughest game fish. However, it's Shimano's new products that are the real attention-getters on the 24 pages of this outstanding catalog. Leading off the new product line-up is the Bass One System—a spinning reel and two rods designed especially for the largemouth fishermen. Conventional tackle anglers will be delighted to find four new models in the Bantam Casting Reel lineup. The new Bantams are performance rated for bass to tarpon and, for larger species, Shimano's Tritons (Mark I and II) answer the call. These two handsome gold reels are designed especially for offshore casting, trolling and live bait fishing in the 20 and 30 lb. line classes. Moving back into freshwater, there's excitement brewing over Shimano's CB-100 Spincast reel that looks and performs like something from the year 2000. It's available with two performance balanced rods for the man who fishes sub 9 lb. species.

Shimano's spinning reel selection has grown with the entry of the KX series...four top of the line reels with internal trip bails and push-button spools. There was no skimping on new rods this year either. The fiberglass and graphite series feature new additions and the cosmetics on all models in this year's line are the best looking anywhere.

See for yourself in Shimano's 1980 Fishing Tackle Catalog. Yours for $1.00 by writing: Shimano American Corp., 205 Jefferson Rd., Parsippany, N.J. 07054.

TACKLE DOCTOR

Questions answered by
Doc Lee Niboraes
of the Mayco Clinic

When I tie and paint my own bucktails, the painted finish easily chips and flakes after only a day or two of fishing. How can I get a better finish?

Use automobile lacquer, available in small pint sized cans, for a thin, non-chippable finish. Many anglers also dip the bucktails or brush on a thin coat of clear epoxy which is virtually chip-proof. You can also bake the finish in the oven at the lowest temperature setting for about ten to fifteen minutes, but be CAREFUL. It is easy to forget they are in there, resulting in a burned, smelly oven—and your wife will hang you!

*****

I have a Daiwa rod that I really like a lot, but the reel seat came loose and now slips on the rod blank. I really don't want to remove all the guides and grips just to fix the seat. How can I re-glue the seat?

Purchase a plastic syringe from your local pharmacy. Mix a portion of epoxy glue and load the syringe. Drill three or four holes no larger than the end of the syringe in the reel seat. The epoxy glue can be squeezed into the reel seat with the syringe and should hold well for many seasons. If this doesn't work, you can drill through the seat and into the blank and install a 1/16" diameter fine threaded screw and nut. The result may be uncomfortable, but can be eased with a wrap or two of tape to cover the rough edges of the screw.

The only other solution is to send the rod back to Daiwa for repair, have a local tackle shop perform the repair, or strip the rod down to the blank and start over.

*****

Loomis, Fisher and Harrington rod blanks have been mentioned in many stories during the past year in The Fisherman. Where can I find these blanks?

Fisher and Harrington blanks are readily available at numerous tackle shops throughout the New Jersey, Delaware and Maryland area. A call to nearly any one of the tackle shops listed in our advertising section will put you in touch with samples of these rod blanks. Loomis is a bit more difficult. Write for their catalog from Loomis Composites, 1555 Downriver Drive, P. O. Box 907, Woodland, Washington 98674.

*****

I'm cleaning all my reels over the winter. Last year I used a heavy grease to re-lube them and was totally dissatisfied with the stiffness of the reel in the spring. What do you recommend?

A heavy grease will thicken in the cool temperatures of spring or fall. The best greases on the market are the "0025" grease, distributed by J. Lee Cuddy and Garcia Silicone Reel Lube. Both are sold in numerous tackle shops. Penn Reel Grease is really a thick oil, but is perfect for handle knobs, level wind gears, clicks, bail mechanisms and other external parts, but seems to spread or spray when applied to gears. This can be a problem if the drag washers on a conventional reel get oil soaked.

Bails, roller line guides and all external surfaces benefit from a thorough spray of CRC, WD-40, or similar spray oil. Wipe the surface so a thin, oily film is left on the reel. When spring comes, you'll be ready and so will your reels.

*****

I read in The Fisherman awhile back about how good felt, oil-soaked washers are as a drag material. I would like to convert some of my spinning reels over to felt washers, but don't know where to find them.

Factory-prepared felt drag washers are readily available. Manufacturers like Shakespeare, Pflueger, and a host of others sell reels with these washers already installed. Any tackle shop that services reels (and most do this) will be able to supply you with the washers you need. You can also cut your own from a piece of felt cloth from a cloth store. Use curved scissors or a large nail clipper to get nice, even, rounded edges.

Soak the washers with a squirt of fine machine oil, 0025 grease, silicone grease, or (IN THE SUMMER) STP. Your drags will be as slick as cow pies!!!

*****

One of my favorite rods was a Fenwick PLB 79, but unfortunately I broke about two to three inches off the tip. Can I epoxy the tip back in place, and if so, will it hurt the action?

It is possible to mend a broken rod by inserting a smaller diameter piece of glass inside the broken part of the rod blank, epoxying both sides of the blank to the splice, much like a permanent glass ferrule. However, the action will always be impaired.

This rod is very light in the tip and you may be surprised that it may be a better rod than before now that the tip has been trimmed. I would simply install a new tiptop and fish it with the slightly shorter tip. The difference in action—if noticeable at all—should be for the better.

If your heart is still set on the original tip, contact: Fenwick/Woodstream, Box 729, Westminster, Ca. 92683 for info on ordering a new tip.

*****

Many of the diamond jigs I used this past fall are all busted up; hooks rusted and bent, finish chipped and scarred with marks from bluefish teeth. Is it possible to re-plate these jigs?

Yes, a metal plater could re-finish the jigs, but it hardly seems worth the expense. Replacement hooks are stocked by most tackle dealers. We've never experienced a lack of fish attracting ability because a diamond jig was scratched or even chipped. In fact, the beat-up jigs often worked better than a shiny new jig.

One alternative to replating is to simply paint the jig. We had great success with jigs painted red, red- and white, and plain white. An epoxy spray paint applies a fast, yet durable finish. You can also convert the chipped jigs to Banana Splits by slipping them inside a length of surgical tubing colored green or red.

*****

Much to my disappointment I have found that "foul-proof" guides are not so foul-proof. In fact, after every three or four casts the line somehow manages to get wrapped INSIDE the guide. What the heck gives and is there a solution?

Believe it or not, there are right and left-handed foul-proof guides! You may go slightly crazy trying to locate which you need, but you can write to Gudebrod at 12 South 12th St., Philadelphia, Pa. 19107, and to Cuddy Associates, 8255 N.E. 2nd Ave., Miami, Fl. for some info. If all else fails, try replacing that one guide with a standard guide.

I assume the first, or gathering guide, is the one that's giving you the problem. It is caused by the line coming off the reel either to the left or right. Some spinning reels flow the line off the spool to the left, while others flow it to the right, depending on the direction the rotating head spins as line is reeled on the spool. If you have a left-flowing reel with a right hand foul-proof guide, you have problems. Try changing reels or replace the guide with a standard guide.

FISH TALK with William A. Muller

WIN A SHAKESPEARE

AS PROMISED! In the final issues of 1979 we promised that we would give away tackle to the readers of this column during 1980 and we are pleased to report that with the cooperation of Mr. Jack Slater, northeast regional manager, and Dick Mermon, local field representative, from Shakespeare Tackle Company, the contest is a "Go" for 1980.

PURPOSES! This is our way of saying thank you. The Long Island Fisherman is grateful to all of you for your loyalty as well as the way you have been so eager to join us in the battles that we have engaged in over the years to improve water quality, fishing, and the recreational opportunities on Long Island. Needless to say, I, too, am grateful for your support and the interest that you have shown in this column. Happily your interest in this column is growing and as each week goes by, I receive more and more input from you that helps me to design this column to meet your needs. This is also Shakespeare's way of saying thank you too, since many of you have purchased Shakespeare Tackle over the years and have used it with success and enjoyment. Much the same can be said of many other tackle and equipment manufacturers and this is by no means the first time that a company has participated with us in a promotional campaign. Hopefully there will be other such efforts which will serve our readers.

UNFORTUNATELY, NOT EVERYONE WILL WIN! We'd like all of our loyal readers to win, but unfortunately that isn't possible. However, we like to think that it is the thought that counts and each one of you that joins in will have an equal opportunity to win. There are a number of possible ways we could handle the selection of a winner; but we decided that the selection mechanics should be consistent with the phenomena of recent years which has seen countless letters sent to me in response to this column.

THEREFORE, HERE'S ALL YOU HAVE TO DO TO WIN! First of all, I want you all to know that each and every letter that is received is read. Sometimes, several letters are received on the same topic and they become clumped together for purposes of reference in the column. I make a very strong effort to answer every letter that does not find its way into the column. Regrettably, from time to time a letter is lost, however unintentionally, and we hope that YOU CAN understand how this might happen from time to time. Some of you include a self-addressed stamped envelope and you haven't objected when I scribble a few words at the bottom of your letter and then send it back. Sometimes we receive letters which are signed, but which do not include a return address and, therefore, if these letters are not used in the column, there is no possible way for me to respond. Therefore, let's make every effort to avoid these problems for contest entries. In order to win, all you have to do is send a letter with a question about fish, fishing, marine habitats, marine ecology, or marine management. Family, friends, and professional members of the fishing industry are not eligible since we wish that only our readers will benefit from this contest.

WHO WILL WIN? At the end of each month, I will pick the best letter of the month. The decision will be based upon the level of common interest to our readers; originality, and relevancy to Long Island fishing and marine environmental interests. In the event that several letters are considered to be of equal merit, a panel consisting of Scott Simons, Rich Reina, and myself will make the final selection.

WHEN WILL CONTEST START? The first month of the contest will be April, 1980 and will continue through December. All letters received from January 1, 1980 to March 31, 1980 will be considered for the April award.

WHAT WILL BE THE AWARD? We are very pleased that each month a spinning rod will go to the lucky winner. The rod will be a Shakespeare Ugly Stik Model SP 1100. This is a seven foot spinning rod that is ideal for freshwater fishing and light to medium saltwater fishing. I have used this rod and it is a beauty. I think that it is especially well suited to spring weakfishing, as well as excellent for flounder, fluke, porgies, and other bottom species. The design of the rod allows the angler to work rather light lures, but it has the muscle to beat powerful saltwater game fish.

WHEN AND HOW WILL THE WINNER GET HIS/HER PRIZE? It is very important that each of you who wish your letter to be considered for the prize include your name and address (typed or clearly printed) somewhere at the top of your letter. When a winner is selected, I will forward the name and address of that person to Dick Mermon. He will then complete the necessary paper work and orders so that you can receive your prize. The rod will come directly from Shakespeare Tackle Co. via United Parcel. In this way, we will eliminate the need for you to drive any distance to pick up your award.

NOTIFICATION OF WINNERS! Winners for a monthly period will be announced in this column. Please **DO NOT** call The Fisherman office to inquire about the winner. I will make every effort to include the name and letter of the winner in the first issue of each month following the competition period. If there is a delay, I will personally notify the winner. Once you see your name listed in the column and indicated to be a winner, it will take about four to eight weeks for you to receive your rod.

GOOD LUCK! All entries will receive equal consideration and I wish all of you the very best of luck.

MORE QUESTIONS FROM ANDY REGINA! Sorry Andy, but since you are a contributor to The Long Island Fisherman, you are not eligible to compete for the Ugly Stik. Seriously, as many of you know, Andy sent in a list of questions that folks in his "neck of the woods" had about fishing, and we have tried to answer many of them. Perhaps now these

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folks will write in themselves. "What creates the cucumber or watermelon smell when blues are around, or that faint whiff of thyme when bass are around?" You know, that's a great question. Certainly, statements to that effect have been passed through my ears since I first started fishing as a tiny tot! I haven't always heard it the way Andy describes it though. Folks always told me that blues smell like fish guts, but bass smell like rotted watermelon. Actually, fish do have distinctive odors and when enough of them are present in a given area, they can add quite an aroma to the place. Who can deny that distinctive musky-fish smell that bunker give out when they are nearby and close to the surface. After many years of practice, I can tell what smell goes with what species; but I can't for the life of me describe the various smells with any accuracy. I remember in the middle 1960s, when small to medium sized blues ran rampant along the North Shore beaches, an evening when we drove down to Bayville under the cover of a strong northeast wind. Now, in those days, the fish would be near Centre Island one night and at Stahle's Beach (about one mile to the west) on the next night. For some reason, the fish had repeated at Stahle's several evenings in a row and so we planned our attack there. However, as we drove along the road to the Bayville Bridge, I picked up the faint smell of blues. Since the wind was from the northeast, I told my friend who was driving to make a right when we drove over the bridge so that we could fish at Centre Island. My friends laughed at me when I told them that I could smell the blues. Well, my nose has always been a little more sensitive than most folks and so they didn't pick up on the smell. I insisted that we go east and finally they relented, but warned that if the fish weren't there that something might happen to my health. I was fearless—principally because I had the smell square in my nostrils now. There could be no doubt whatever that the fish were on the beach. Sure enough, as we approached the beach, we could easily see the blues chasing baitfish in the crests of the three foot waves. We were in, and by the end of the evening the arms ached from batling blues.

WE AREN'T DOGS! The problem with specifically identifying the smells given off by large schools of fish, is that our sense of smell is not nearly as well developed as some other critters. Dogs, for example, have an excellent sense of smell that has taken millions of years to develop. That portion of a dog's brain that deals with analyzing smells is enlarged. A dog will pick up a smell and by repeatedly breathing out and in (out to moisten an old smell and thus intensify it

(Continued on page 24.)

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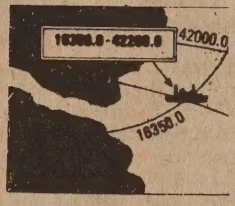

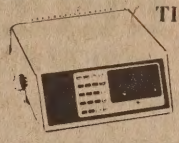

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IGFA'S FRESHWATER RECORD PROGRAM. In 1978, the International Game Fish Association took over the all-tackle freshwater world records which had been maintained by "Field & Stream" magazine for many years. At the same time, "Field & Stream" dropped its long-standing fishing contest which provided recognition for outstanding catches of many fresh and saltwater species in various line test categories. IGFA is not only filling that void by conducting a world-wide freshwater fishing contest this year, but will also be

NATIONAL SCENE

with Al Ristori

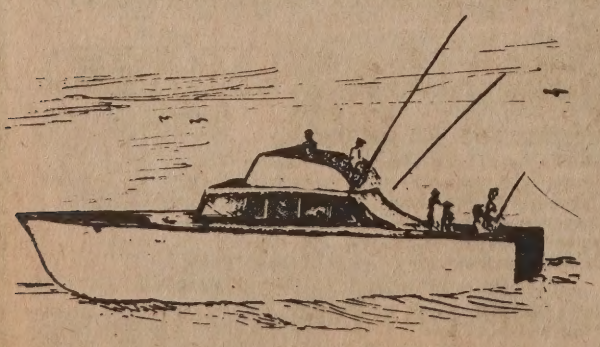
I.G.F.A. Records & Rules

using the results of that contest to establish a new system of freshwater line class records.

Since IGFA absorbed the record-keeping systems of "Field & Stream," the saltwater Fly Rodders and International Spin Fishing Association, they've been looking for a way to come up with an equitable method of handling freshwater records. However, their study of other record-keeping systems in the U.S. and abroad indicated that a wide disparity exists among requirements and regulations for the various programs, and in very few instances do existing systems parallel the standards established and maintained by IGFA for saltwater records since 1939.

In order to establish the new system and determine the most popular species on a world-wide basis, IGFA is running a wide open world record contest in 1980. Any freshwater species is eligible, provided it weighs at least one pound and is taken according to IGFA rules. Present IGFA world record or contest application forms can be used and there is no limit on the number of entries submitted per angler—nor any charge for processing the entry.

Freshwater line test classes will be 4, 8, 12, 16, 20, 30, 50, 80, and 130 pound; while fly fishing records will be maintained in 2, 4, 8, 12, and 16 pound tippet classes. The contest started on January 1 and will end with all entries received by IGFA as of November 30, 1980. At that time, IGFA will study all entries to determine which species should be considered for world records and what the heaviest acceptable line class for each species will be. The Board will then designate the heaviest approved catch in each line and tippet class category as the initial record to be published in the 1981 edition of the annual World Record Game Fishes book. At that time, minimum acceptance weights will also be established for vacant record categories.



World record certificates will be issued to all winners of the freshwater contest, and certificates of participation will go to all entrants. This is a unique opportunity for the freshwater fisherman to get involved in a massive undertaking that will eventually bring the same sort of interest to sweetwater fishing with light lines that already exists in saltwater due to the IGFA's efforts. However, it's important to keep in mind that there is some variation between IGFA regulations and standard freshwater practices. The most obvious that comes to mind is the matter of lures. It's only in recent years that IGFA has dropped its long-standing prohibition against the use of treble hooks on plugs. Even now, trebles are limited to two on a plug—and then for casting only. Many popular freshwater plugs will not be eligible under present regulations. Copies of the IGFA angling rules, world record requirements, and application forms can be obtained by writing to: International Game Fish Association, 300 East Las Olas Boulevard, Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33316.

IGFA RULES REVISED

A number of modifications have been made in IGFA rules recently. Unfortunately, for area anglers, the prohibition on wire and lead core lines remains in force. Most of the big striped bass and bluefish taken in the mid-Atlantic area are nailed on wire line and, despite the fact that these lines have breaking points which would put them into various IGFA classes, they are ineligible for record consideration. Understandably, many anglers don't like to use wire—which is heavier and more difficult to handle than mono. On the other hand, that doesn't make it in any way "unsporting."

A very significant change that will make it much easier to break light tackle records on large fish involves the standardization of double line and leader requirements for all classes of tackle. Until this regulation goes into effect on April 1, all classes less than 80 lb. are restricted to fifteen feet of double line and a fifteen foot leader. The thirty foot double line permitted in the 80 and 130 lb. classes allows the angler to put a great deal of pressure on the fish at boat-side, but the light tackle fisherman often loses his fish at that point due to the lack of a long double line. As of April 1, all classes of tackle will be allowed up to thirty feet of double line and thirty feet of leader—but the combined overall length of both leader and double line may not exceed forty feet.

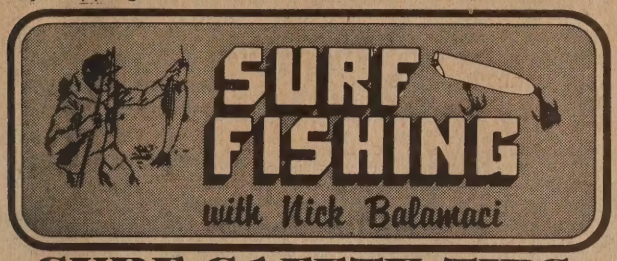
All other rules changes took effect January 1. One problem that some unsuspecting anglers have run into has been eliminated in that a provision for backing has been added. Indeed, the minimum length of the fishing line to which the backing is attached is just fifty feet. Rod tip length has been set at a minimum of forty inches. Fly fishing regulations have been changed to provide that the class tippet must be at least fifteen inches, and the previous maximum rod length of eleven feet has been deleted. The statement in the regulations prohibiting "beaded chain, spinners, or similar devices" is also deleted.

Some very significant changes have been made in the general rules governing angling. Most important is the statement that "If a double line is used, the intent of the regulations is that the fish will be fought on the single line most of the time it takes to land the fish." This is to eliminate some of the phony records made on sharks where by the shark is chummed to the boat, a baited hook dropped to the fish and the flying gaff placed while the angler "plays" it on the double line. Of course, it's possible to catch huge sharks on line as light as you care to use by resorting to such unsporting tactics—and it's also the reason why all shark records are somewhat suspect. The new wording still won't prevent cheating if all aboard decide that's what they want to do, but it will at least make it clear that such actions are unethical. The prohibition against using a boat to drive a fish into shallow water has been expanded to include "devices." This is probably in reaction to some of the "clever" means used in the Florida Keys to catch huge jewfish, sharks and tarpon on very light tackle.

Last week we discussed the general areas of the elements and clothing. This week we'll continue by going over some of the problems posed by the terrain as well as some living things:

THE TERRAIN.

One spring night I decided to explore the back of a North Shore bay, by myself (first mistake). I got a long way hopping the sod banks, then hit a spot where a



SURF SAFETY TIPS

★PART TWO★

small tidal creek had emptied itself into the bay proper. I stepped off the sod bank onto the mud of the creek bed and immediately sank in up to my thigh. The other foot followed, and there I was alone, a quarter mile from any other person, sinking into the goo a bit more with every squirm. I stopped panicking and with a free hand grabbed hold of a clump of mussels on the bank and slowly extricated myself. I should have felt the texture of the mud with a rod tip first and found another route, or at least should have made that first step with less of my total body weight. Always make sure your forward foot is secure BEFORE relinquishing the foothold of the rearward one!

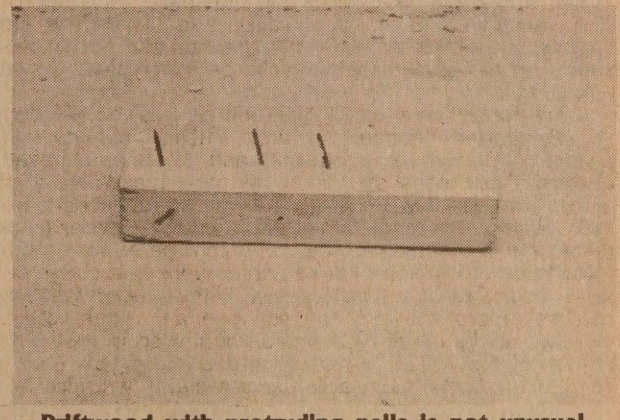
Getting stuck on a sandbar is no fun either. Try to wade to such bars only on an outgoing tide (to begin with), and always return before the comparable stage of the incoming (you obviously must know your tides and tables very well as a surfcaster). For example, if you were able to wade out to a certain bar only when the tide was two hours out (i.e., after high), then you must leave it by two hours before the next high tide AT THE LATEST. Exceptions to usual tidal heights are caused by onshore and offshore winds as well as a full or new moon; these all can cause unusually high and low tides and thus should be compensated for (i.e., you should probably leave the bar an hour or so earlier than usual). Make it a point to learn the science of tides and their vagaries, and know these well before doing any wading to bars. If you are stuck on a bar in a moving surf, don't procrastinate—wade ashore slowly, but surely. If you're lucky, you'll only take on some water. If it gets or looks too rough, don't hesitate to shed your waders and swim or body surf ashore; it's a small price to pay for your safety.

The wading fisherman is also susceptible to sharp dropoffs; again, the answer is to feel your way slowly and never let go with the rearward foot until the forward foot has good purchase on the bottom. This is a very important suggestion.

When walking on rocks or jetties at night with felt or cleats, do not step on any black patches or rocks; these are the Vaseline-like growths. When crossing a low point on a jetty, pause first for a few minutes and see if an occasional wave crashes into the low spot. Time it so that you will cross the spot right after such a wave (or series of them) hits; plan your route, and cross quickly and with certainty.

Wading in the surf or in a rip gives you a few more things to watch out for. In the surf, to avoid the full impact of a wave, ensure you have a good foothold on the bottom (feet apart a foot or two and positioned so that a line drawn between them would be roughly perpendicular to the waves), and take the wave sideways—shoulder first—thereby slicing into it rather than having it smash into your chest or face. In a rip, again, see that you have a good foothold, with feet in this case parallel to the current flow. If you decide or need to move around, take short, low steps; due to air trapped in your waders, your leg will be somewhat buoyant and will tend to be pushed by the current, thus endangering your balance if you raise it too high off the bottom.

Standard jetty uniform affords angler both dryness and agility.



Driftwood with protruding nails is not unusual and should be watched for.

Beach buggy drivers know to stay away from driftwood in their travels along the beach; so, too, should be the angler on foot. Such wood often contains a few rusted nails, just waiting to ruin your waders (ever try a boot repair?) or worse, put you in an emergency room.

In some spots (such as Dead Horse Cove in Brooklyn and Little Neck Bay) the hotspots are surrounded at high tide by extremely high weeds or grass of ten feet or more. These can be navigated safely

(Continued on page 15.)

PRESCRIPTION SPIN ROD

With Long Island's landscape cloaked in a blanket of white, the mild warmth of spring may still seem a long way off. For many anglers who claim the south shore bays as their home turf, the blossoming of cherry trees and dogwoods signals the real start of the fishing season. The scrappy flounder have already sharpened up reflexes, numbed by winter's inactivity, by the time more gamer species begin to make their presence known. The influx of weakfish into these waters, followed close behind by hordes of small bluefish, have made light spinning rods a vital piece of equipment in the arsenals of local anglers.

Five years ago, I discovered a rod that satisfied my needs and performed admirably under situations suited to light spinning tackle. Since I was seeking a rod that would be used by charter patrons, some of whom had little or no previous angling experience, spinning was the only logical choice. Also, I wanted a relatively short stick because on some days, three or four novice anglers were engaged in casting and retrieving from the confines of a twenty foot skiff. Ultimately, the shorter length blank resulted in a lightweight, easy to handle rod that sent many anglers, who spent a day with one of these outfits in their hands, scurrying off to buy one of their own. If you are looking for something to tote along on open boats during the spring weakfish run, this rod may be the answer.

Another one of its virtues, is a tip that is stiff enough to make small poppers splash and gurgle with very little effort, compared to softer, more limber blanks. It can handle lures in the five-sixteenth to one ounce range very nicely and makes tossing anything from small leadheaded bucktails to five-and-a-half inch Rebels and RedFins a real pleasure. There is more than enough backbone to lead any tiderunner weak or doormat fluke that gobbles up a hair or rubber creation, to the net. The same can be said for any chopper larger than the two to four pounders which comprise the bulk of the bay bluefishery.

In the past, I often carried a lighter outfit for the weaks and a somewhat stiffer and heavier one for plugging blues. The rod I have been describing is a happy compromise that suits both situations. The rod also makes a nice flounder stick providing you don't overdo it with the lead. If you like, put a small conventional reel, such as the Penn 9MS on it for the flatfish season.

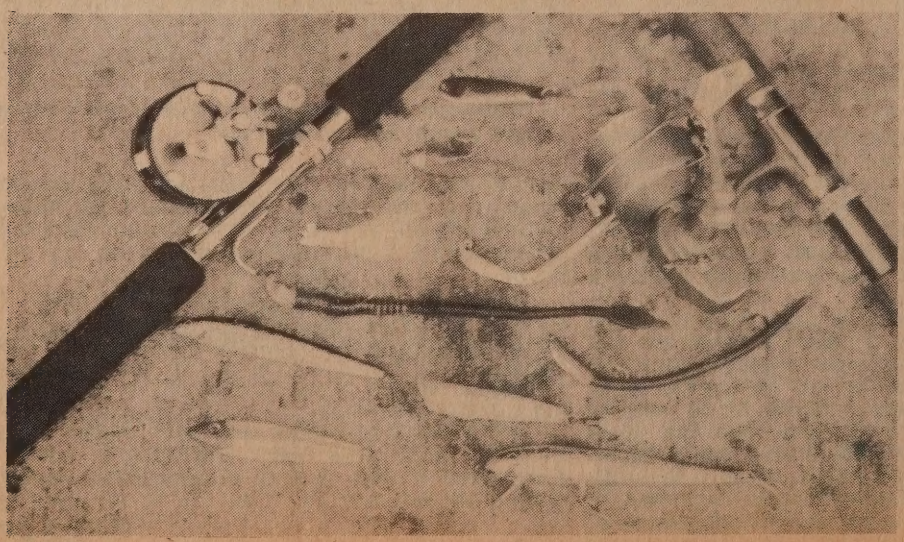
Since most anglers on our waters find casting with conventional reels an alien art and because spinning fills the bill nicely for the type fishing we have been discussing, we will limit the topic to spinning. Keep in mind though, that if you are a baitcasting buff, the blanks we will be discussing were originally designed for such use on freshwater bass lakes. Make the necessary alterations in components, and you will find the same virtues characteristic of the spinning rod version, inherent in your own outfit.

When I came upon this rod, it was nestled on a rack at J&R Sports Center in Oakdale. Over the past few years, John has turned out dozens of these rods. Complete with a dazzling display of diamond wrap and personally monagrammed, they retail for slightly more than thirty dollars. They are very popular among the local weakfish crowd. For those seeking to busy themselves these long, cold nights, the total cost of blank and components is somewhere in the vicinity of a twenty dollar bill.

Several rod blanks lend themselves to the task. My original set consists of Lamiglas #4524; Lami's #WR63-2F, Fenwick's SP32, and Shakespeare's #12-0237 are all suitable replacement blanks. Cost averages out to about eight dollars. Cork griops are both lighter and less expensive, but the foam is easier to install. I prefer the cork, which you can acquire for one to two dollars. A lightweight aluminum reel seat goes for about two dollars. Guides can be either ceramic or stainless and should include a number 30, 20, 16 and 10, as well as a 5½ or 6 tip depending on the blank selected. Cost of the ceramics is around five dollars; figure on another five dollars if you go stainless. Toss in a couple of bucks for such items as varnish, and thread and you should be very near the twenty dollar figure. While I have used the Penn 714, 720 and 722 on this rod with gratifying results, any good quality reel of comparable size with a smooth working drag will suffice. Daiwa, Zebco and Shakespeare are among the manufacturers of such reels.

Depending on the reel you select for the rod, spool it with either six or eight pound test mono. I strongly recommend that you don't exceed the latter. The lighter lines makes casting and presentation much easier.

If you already possess a pet spinning outfit that has weathered many salty baths, God bless you. If you are seeking the perfect outfit with which to bucktail shallow water weaks and fluke or plug bay blues, then maybe you should consider spending a few nights at the rod wrapping bench, putting together this honey of a stick.



A variety of artificials commonly used on south shore bays by light tackle anglers.

FISH & MARINE NEWS

BY FRED GUARDINEER

SEA STARS TO THE RESCUE!

GIANT OFFSHORE OIL RIGS' LEGS QUICKLY BECOME FOULED WITH MARINE SHELL-LIFE REMOVED AT GREAT EXPENSE BY HAMMER & CHISEL. NOW OIL COMPANIES HAVE INTRODUCED COMMON SEA STARFISH PREDATORS WHICH EAT AWAY MOST OF THE MOLLUSK BIVALVES, CUTTING THE WORK OF THE DIVERS.

THOSE FUNNY LOOKING BLUEGILLS

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SMALLMOUTH BLACK BASS,

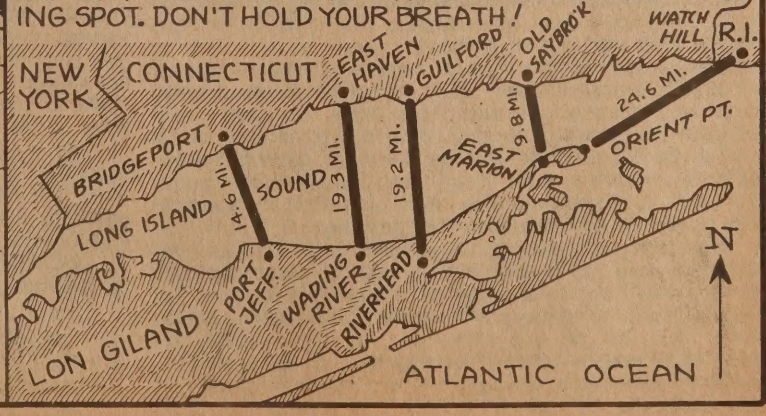
FACED WITH LOSS OF THEIR NATURAL ROCKY HABITAT IN MANY LAKES, HAVE BEEN ADAPTING NEW TERRITORY - INTO THE WEEDS NORMALLY FREQUENTED BY LARGEMOUTH BASS. FISHING TECHNIQUES USED ON LARGEMOUTHS NOW CATCH THE BRONZEBACKS!

CHLORINE BLEACH,

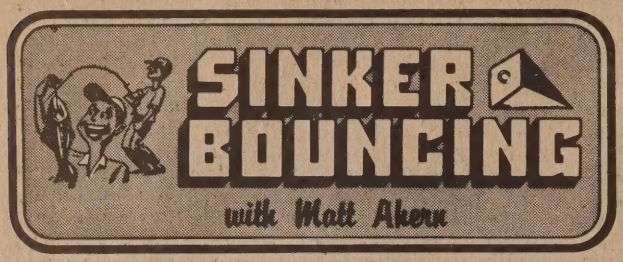
A HOUSEHOLD LAUNDRY ADDITIVE, IS USED BY SOME SPEARFISHERMEN TO DRIVE FISH OUT OF CORAL REEFS AND CAVES. SINCE THE BLEACH IS A DILUTE SOLUTION OF HYDROCHLORIC ACID, IT LITTERALLY EATS ORGANIC MATTER AND THE REEF EVENTUALLY BECOMES DEVOID OF ALL MARINE LIFE.

POSSIBLE BRIDGE SITES TO LINK LONG ISLAND

WITH NEW ENGLAND WHICH ARE UNDER STUDY AND HEATED DISCUSSION. NO MATTER HOW NECESSARY - A L.I. SOUND BRIDGE WILL BE FOUGHT HARDER THAN WORLD WAR II AND THEN WILL BECOME A GOOD FISHING SPOT. DON'T HOLD YOUR BREATH!



One morning last fall I was attempting to snag a few blackfish while casting from the Shinnecock Inlet west jetty, when I noticed a vaguely familiar fisherman up the line glance my way, lay aside his tackle and rock-hop over to me. "Just the guy I want to see," he said. And he went on to tell me that about three or four years ago he had read an article I'd written on record keeping and had decided then and there that it sounded like an interesting idea, and maybe he ought to give it a whirl. What the heck, he said, there was nothing to lose



KEEPING FISHING RECORDS

except a little effort, and maybe, hopefully, a great deal to gain. Since then, he'd faithfully kept records of each trip as explained in the article, and by making comparisons at the end of each year with the previous year's fishing, he was happy to discover his catch steadily increasing. Those poor days, he said, on which he often drew a zip, were becoming fewer and fewer. In fact, he added, glancing into my fish bucket with what I thought was a self-satisfied smile, that spot up the line he was now fishing was discovered as a good producer just by checking his records. It appeared this fisherman was doing his homework, for he told me he had more blackfish in his bucket than I had in mine. Where I had been taking my chances with haphazard casts, he knew exactly where to place his rig for best results. Apparently, I should have been taking my own advice more seriously.

But that didn't matter. I was glad to know his fishing had improved. As will yours if you take it upon yourself to keep records of every trip you make in the future.

It doesn't matter what type of sinker bouncing you intend to do: whether it be from a boat or from shore—if you keep records of all your trips, your fishing results will improve...just like that fellow's on the jetty. I can guarantee it.

That jetty fisherman's experience isn't an isolated instance by any means. Readers often write and tell me that record keeping has not only improved their fishing, but many of these enthusiastic fishermen go into great detail to relate how it had added additional zest and enjoyment to their sport. And for an offbeat angle, one fellow told me that for every fish he enters into his record book, he puts a penny into a jar which he calls his "fish bank." When his infant son reaches twenty-one, this fisherman intends to present him with those pennies. Now, here is a novel idea if I ever heard one.

(I was just thinking: if that fisherman includes all those bergalls he's sure to catch while waiting for that day to arrive, there should be enough in that "fish bank" for his kid to at least get a Cadillac.)

But let's be serious for a moment, for to the dedicated fisherman, record keeping is as important as the proper selection of a hook or any part of his tackle. They are all an intelligent means to an end. And with that, let me say if you feel keeping fishing records is something to be taken lightly—don't even start. It isn't for you. Turn this page and check out something else in the magazine, for you are only wasting your time by further reading.

But if you are truly serious, if you desire to improve your fishing, if you wish to foretell with fair accuracy just where the fish will be at any given moment, if you want to know with near certainty just how many fish you will catch when you next go out—read on, for the keeping of accurate fishing records will do exactly that. Later in this article I'll give you an example of one of my fishing entries as a guide; but for now, let's start from scratch.

All my record keeping books are plain, ordinary school composition books available anywhere for about a buck. I have a number of these with every page completely filled; the first one goes back over fifty years, which was when I first became brain-struck with the idea.

If ever I feel overwhelmingly nostalgic and wish to dabble in the long ago, all I need do is bring forth that first one, written as a kid, with a kid's observations of the fishing scene, and I'll tell you this, fellas: I'd have to be one cold-hearted son-of-a-gun not to become misty-eyed over that long-gone, extremely happy, fish-chasing boyhood. Those long departed fishermen from whom I learned so much are not that far removed that I cannot again hear them speak.

Anyway, as I started to say: start off with one of those composition books. The paper is good and holds up well after much heavy-handed pawing, and if you're like me, you'll do much of this. I use these particular type books because I like to write in prose form, but I know some fellows who use specially printed sheets which they keep in looseleaf folders. I'll tell you about these in a minute.

Get in the habit of recording everything of interest, plus anything you think odd or unusual. My records contain the following odd happenings: the time I caught the one-eyed flounder; the occasional left-handed flounder and right-handed fluke; the fluke with the light green back; the completely all-black fluke; the two ling on one hook, and the two flounder on one hook; the light-green blackfish; the dusky-rose cod, so beautiful I was actually sorry I caught it; the handsome orange/red cod; the cod with the rubber boot heel in its stomach; the ling whose innards contained a lady's dinner ring, minus the stone; and to add a bit of humor, the hacklehead with a slice of pickle in its mouth.

These happenings will not help you catch more fish, of course; but gosh darn it, they certainly bring back memories and partially-forgotten associations, which in itself is of value. And who knows, you may want to show proof to some Doubting Thomas.

But what will help you catch more fish are **accurate** entries. This is important. You must be serious about your record keeping. Don't kid. Especially, don't kid yourself. If you caught but ten flounder the last time out and you feel you should have done better, don't indulge in the pitfall of satisfying your own ego and state you caught twenty.

To believe you'll remember when you bent the truth is easy—but you won't. Memory is a notorious traitor. Remember, there is a reason why you caught ten flounder instead of twenty. Keeping your records truthful and accurate will eventually tell you why those ten flounder were caught, but of those make-believe ten—they will have nothing to say. Should you get into this foolish habit, you will only defeat your purpose.

It is important that you enter weather conditions; wind direction, too. Tide activity should be noted and, if at all possible, on what part of the tide your fish bit best. The number and approximate weight of each fish should also be entered, the largest fish scale-weighed if possible. Moon phases may be entered if you wish; but unless there is a specific reason for it, I seldom do.

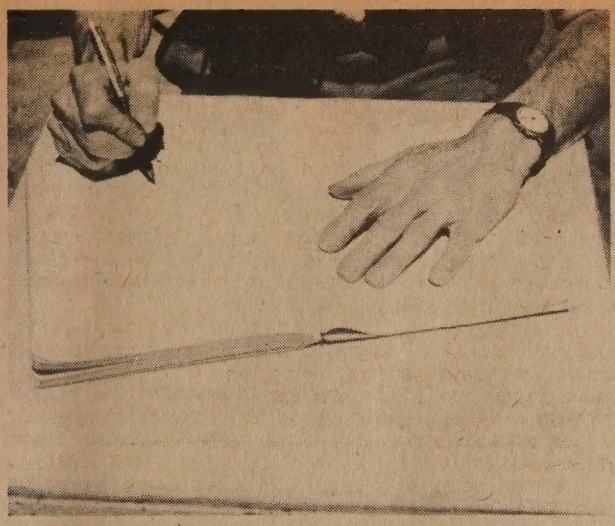
I'm sure, though, that when moon phases are noted, you will find subtle patterns take form as to when the fishing is fair, good, or bad. Striper fishermen often do this and those boys are the most dedicated of all. They have long since learned to separate the wheat from the chaff. If they consider this item important—well, let a word to the wise be sufficient.

As mentioned before, I have several record books chock-full of past fishing exploits. They are before me as I write this. I'll select one at random, pick out an entry page and copy it word for word so that you may get a general idea of how I go about it.

(Sorry this particular entry goes back so far, but it was on the first page I turned.)

May 1, 1965: Saturday.

On the Survivor II for its first trip of the year. Fished the Stone Barge where I took sixteen blackfish, all on fresh skimmer, includir g the pool fish ($14). Then to the Howard Wreck. Took five more



Keeping accurate records is certain to improve your fishing over the years.

blacks here and 15 ling. Then to Hour Run for mackerel. Macks just starting. Took eleven nice ones. Foul-hooked a good-sized herring while mackerel fishing. Nice day, weather-wise. Tidal change made no difference in the action.

FISH:
Blackfish (21)...1½ to 7 lbs.
Mackerel (11)...2 to 2½ lbs.
Ling (15)...1½ to 2½ lbs.
Herring (1)...1 lb.

WEATHER: Mild. Southwest wind with occasional gusts from the north on tide change.

This entry contains much information and I make it a point to always do this. Note the references made to each area fished and the amount of fish taken from each. Notice, too, the reference to tide. And also that reference to the weather, which was good that day and probably the reason for the good fishing.

I say "probably" because only foolish fishermen make positive statements when dealing with Mother Nature and her forces. I've had some excellent party boat fishing on days so rough you couldn't stand up on deck, and soaked to the skin to boot. And I've had very poor fishing on those days that experience has taught should have produced a bucketful. That alone is good reason for keeping accurate fishing records. Recall what was said earlier about subtle patterns.

I'll conclude this, as promised, with a speedy method some fishermen use who don't care to write in prose. A friend has had the following printed on looseleaf sheets by his neighborhood printer. This is a good method because it allows for corrected copy to be inserted at any time with little trouble.

1. Number, weight, and kinds of fish caught.
2. Water condition.
3. Tackle and name of bait—or lure.
4. Name of fishing ground.
5. Weather.

I believe item #2 would be more appropriate for freshwater fishing; but all in all, this record keeping system covers the essentials.

Don't waste time getting started. Do it now! Get yourself a composition book, or something similar. The Fisherman carries ads from time to time by commercial companies which put out professional-looking record books. If you are interested, look them up.

One nice thing about record keeping. You will no longer be guessing when you go fishing. You'll have a pretty good idea of where to go and what to expect. Guessing produces few fish. Ask the experts.

SURF FISHING SAFETY

(Continued from page 11.)

by taking a bearing before you enter them, then following that bearing (i.e., a star, the moon, tall building with a light at the top, etc.).

I do not recommend barefoot fishing under any circumstances; your feet can get cut up pretty badly by shells and/or glass. Use waders or hip boots, or if you must go in in Bermuda shorts, at least wear a pair of sneakers on your feet.

Finally, what happens when your car or buggy accidentally gets stuck in the sand? Unless you know what to do, it can cost you much lost fishing time, as well as an unnecessary (usually) towing bill. DO NOT step on the gas pedal further; you will just dig in deeper. Have your buddy go to the front of the vehicle and begin to rock it back and forth, with you helping by going in reverse for a half second while he pushes, and then forward for the next half second as the wheel rolls back into its hole. Build up momentum and the car will clear its ditch in short order. It is assumed in this example that you just drove your car (or buggy with 4WD out of commission, unbeknownst to you) off of a paved or dirt road onto the sand, and dug in. Therefore, your goal is to clear the hole while in reverse, and with someone pushing your front (and thus giving you a kind of four wheel drive imitation) get back on firm ground in reverse gear.

LIVING THINGS.

One night while walking through the high weeds at Little Neck Bay, I paused for an instant, and noticed that the rustling of the weeds continued after I stopped. I looked down towards the source of the noise, turned on my necklight (ALWAYS have a necklight; use it only sparingly), and saw the dark forms of dozens of rats scurrying out of the light. I continued my trek, slightly afraid, but determined to make it. My confidence was bolstered by two facts: THEY were afraid of ME, plus I was wearing hip boots. Rats are found in many seaside locations, and are more undesirable than dangerous to an angler, unless they are cornered. Wear high boots, walk slowly and loudly (so as to send them running), and don't leave food or bait lying around uncovered by plastic or some such.

On September 2, 1979, after wading back ashore from waist-deep water west of the Jones Beach fishing piers, my friends and I noticed a one-and-a-half foot high dorsal fin slicing through the spot we'd just left. We followed it west (along the shore, of course!) and observed as it stayed in shallow water, then disappeared into a deeper channel. The rest of the night was spent casting from water no deeper than six inches! So, needless to say, if you see what could be a shark in the water, do not continue to fish there. While the shark is near you, stay still, and do not splash or panic. Once it moves away, you should leave the water slowly and deliberately. Incidentally, when I related my "shark experience" to some of the other fishermen in the area, some were aware of the fact that our beaches, inlets, and adjacent areas occasionally harbored good-sized brown sharks, and though they considered them generally harmless, every single one of these veterans stated unequivocally that they would leave the water if a shark made its presence known—brown shark or not. Besides, unless one is a marine biologist with good eyesight and a lot of nerve to boot, how can you tell a brown from a tiger from a mako from a white in all that darkness, with just a large, fast approaching fin to go by? Wise fishermen stay on the sand for the rest of the night. And if you think you'd get scared seeing such a predator, imagine how all the bass, blues and weaks in the area would feel! You can pretty well bet that a decent sized shark will end the fishing for the night in that area.

Next week, a look at more living things to watch out for, plus a discussion of perhaps the most vital factor of all: yourself.

BASIC ROD BUILDING

by Pete Barrett

–PART THREE–
WRAPPING THE GUIDES

Wrapping the guides is just as easy as wrapping the underwrap threads, and the basic start and finish of the wraps is identical. Wrap towards the center of the guide up onto the guide foot.

Guide feet should be filed or tapered on a grinder so the wraps can climb the foot in a neat manner with no gaps in the threads. This is perhaps the trickiest part for new rod crafters, but easily mastered with a small amount of practice.

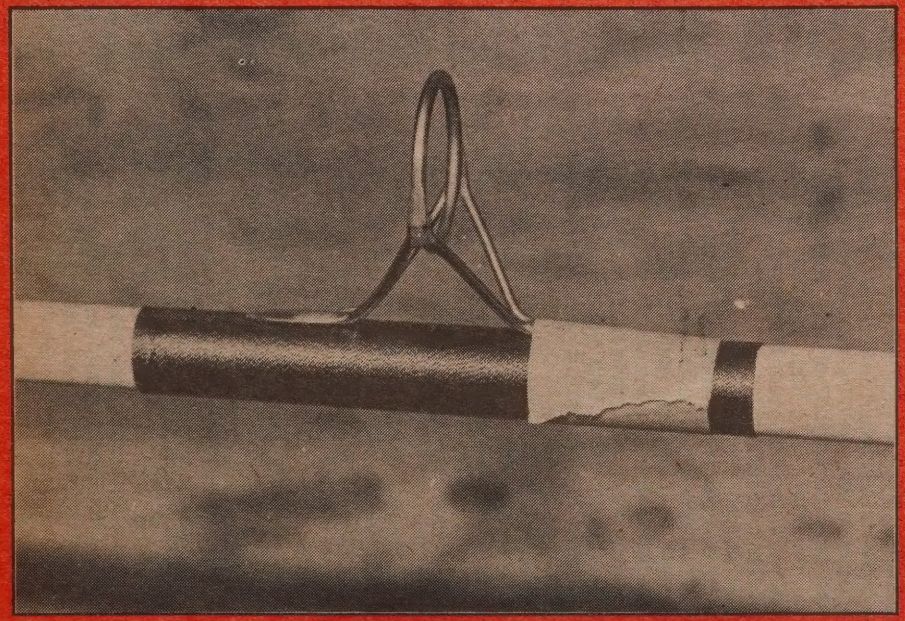
The photos show a very plain and simple wrap. The imagination of the rod crafter can "run wild" at this point. Slim end wraps at each end of the underwraps, called checks, can be added. Before the guide is wrapped, many builders like to add a center wrap and usually use a third color to enhance the color selection of the basic under and overwraps.

Tension of the threads should be firm, but not too tight. If one or more guides don't line up when sighting down the blank to align with the reel seat, they can be pushed or squeezed into place by working your fingers on the wraps to push or pull the guides into the correct position.

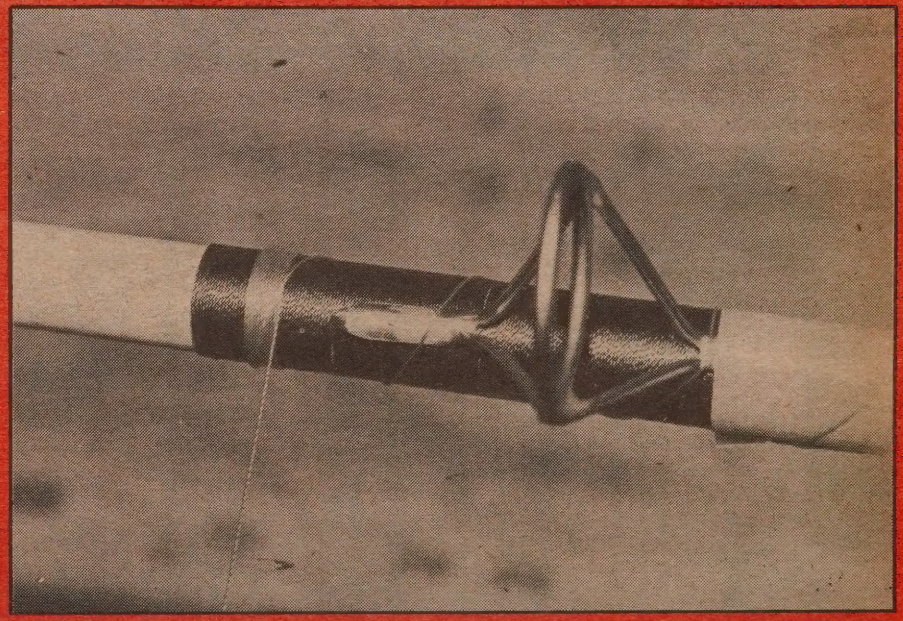
Don't worry if the threads do not seem to be very tight. Firm, but snug wrapping will be immovably secured later when the epoxy finish is applied to the rod wrappings.

The tiptop is installed with a low melting ferrule cement. Do not use an epoxy glue. If the tiptop ever needs replacement you will never be able to get it off with the epoxy. Be careful with Fuji or other ceramic tiptops where the guide ring is held in place with a plastic ring. Too much heat on the tiptop will melt the ring and ruin the guide.

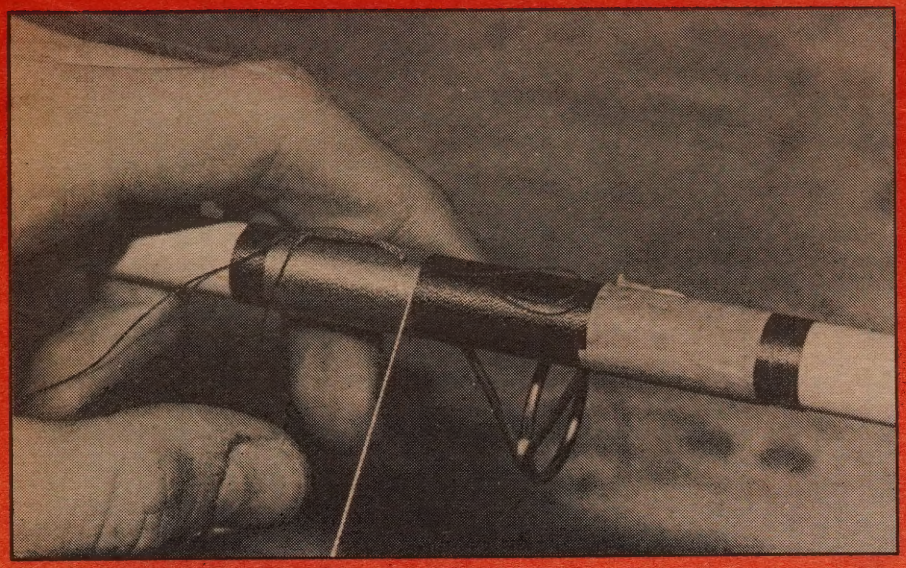
★NEXT WEEK★
Applying The Finish



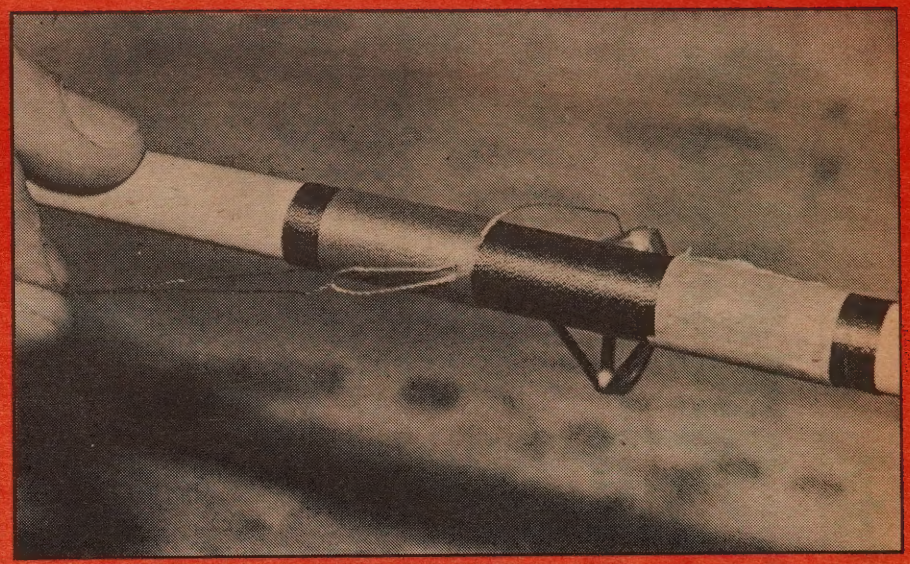
Position the guide centered on the underwrap with masking tape. Make sure the guide aligns with the hoods of the reel seat.



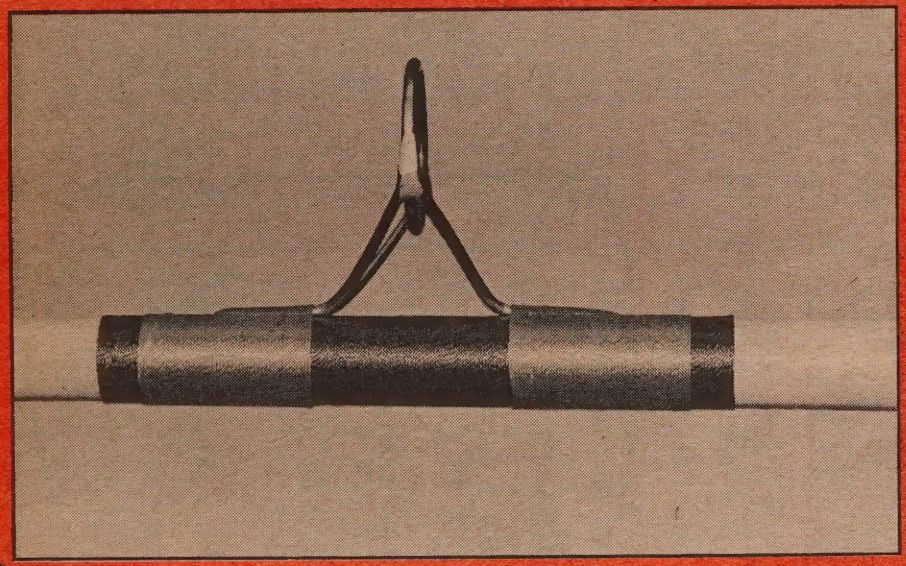
Begin wrapping as with the underwrap, taping the end of the thread, winding spiral wraps, and then winding the thread back over itself. It is best to wrap toward the center of the guide.



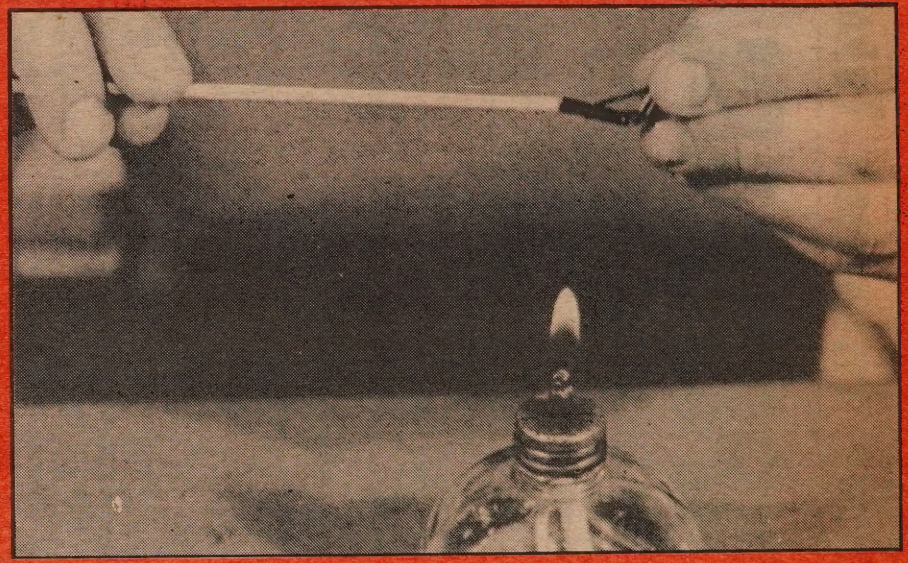
Place a loop under the last five wraps.



Pull loop through and clip off the end of the thread flush for a neat finish.



A plain, simple wrap should look like this. Fancy end wraps and center markings are the mark of a custom crafter and can easily be added before the guide is wrapped using instructions the same as for the underwraps.



Glue the tiptop in place with ferrule cement. Align it with the rest of the guides and the reel seat.

Tautog Fishermen Take Note:

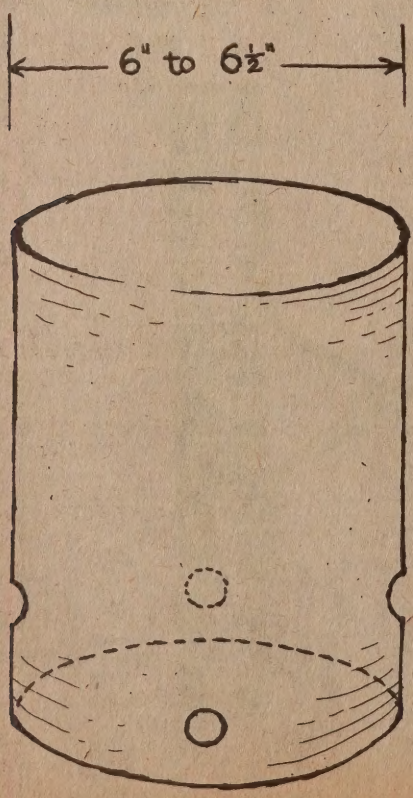
EXPENDABLE ANCHOR

by J.C. Standish

Don't let the bottom eat holes in your pockets. I do a lot of tautog fishing in the spring and fall—most of it along the Navy breakwater north of the destroyer piers at the Naval Base, Newport. This wall consists of thousands of squarely cut, multi-ton boulders piled up on each other to form a triangularly-shaped structure. It reaches out twenty to forty feet in places from the water line to the bottom. Blackfish in droves feed over it and in the large, jagged holes and caverns among the jumbled pile of blocks. The tide rips along parallel to this wall on both ebb and flood. Only rarely is it possible to anchor in the mud beyond the foot of the wall and have the boat hold over the rocks and the fish. The anchor won't hold, or the wind and/or the tide will continually swing the boat in arcs all around the area. Frequently it is necessary to anchor both bow and stern in order to hold the boat over the charmed spots. Most often it is necessary to drop the anchor right into the underwater portion of the rock slope and usually it will slide into a hole before it grabs. This location literally devours anchors. I've lost Navy types, Danforths, and fluke types with the rings which slide up the shank to permit lifting of anchor by the base. Most of the time, I can free the anchor by maneuvering around it. However, several times a season I can't dislodge it from the crevice it gets wedged in. It used to cost me $15 to $20 for each such experience and made me so reluctant to fish there, that I'd often pass it up for a less productive spot. Now when I lose an anchor there, I no longer cry—just shrug my shoulders since it is only a fifty cent loss.

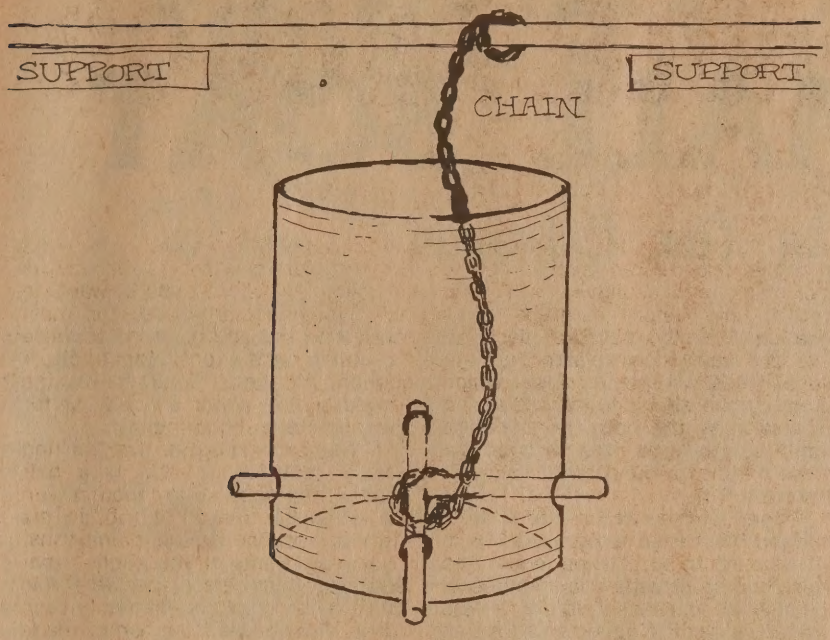
Although the idea is not original with me, it is worth repeating for those of you who fish at certain times under similar circumstances. These anchors are not efficient in mud, sandy or smooth hard bottoms, particularly if a good breeze is blowing or a strong current is running. Therefore, you'll want to carry your regular anchor for most conditions and one or more of these "I don't care rigs" for anchor-gobbling locations. I carry two: the second one as either a spare, or for bow and stern anchoring.

If you are going to try making one, you might as well do a half dozen and make a production run out of it. For materials, obtain six #10 cans or one gallon paint cans. Most restaurants or institutions that feed large numbers of people throw out many empty #10s. The only cash I usually lay out is for a bag of ready or handy mix cement. The last one I bought cost about $3. They come in at least two sizes: forty and sixty pounds. A forty pound bag will produce six of these anchors. For cross arms, I use scrap pieces of metal pipe or metal bars. I use old pieces of chain for a shank or shaft on the anchor. On the set I'm


6" to 6½"
2ND SET OF PIPE HOLES HIGH ENOUGH ABOVE FIRST SET TO ALLOW PIPE TO PASS CLEAR OF LOWER CROSS PIPE.
FIRST SET OF PIPE HOLES ABOUT ½" to 1" ABOVE BOTTOM OF CAN.

ANCHOR DIAGRAMS

SUSPENSION STICK FOR CHAIN



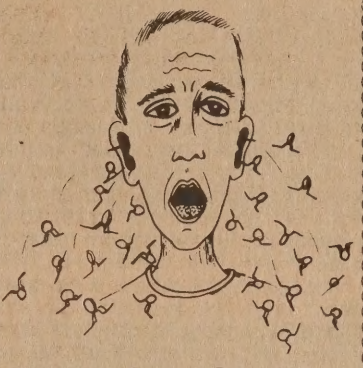
CHAIN LOOPED AROUND BOTH CROSS BARS
USE A LINK OR WIRE TO JOIN CHAIN TO ITSELF

getting ready to make now, the chain is from an old set of tire chains that no longer fit my wheels. With a heavy screw driver and a vise and hammer it is possible to disassemble the chain into usable segments. In the past, everything from dog chains, tow chains to tie downs have gone into these anchors. The main idea is to make them as cheaply, and not as fancy as possible.

Cut the pipe or metal bars into sixteen to eighteen inch lengths. A #10 can is about six inches in diameter; a gallon paint can about six-and-a-half inches. Set the can on a piece of pipe so that it lines up with a diameter of the can. Mark both sides of the can with a marking crayon or pencil where the ends of the pipe pass under the sides of the can. Put end of pipe above this mark and trace end of pipe with marking pencil on outside of can. This first set of circles should be about one-half to one inch above the bottom of the can. This is to allow enough space to work your chain underneath this cross bar and to allow cement to get around it. Turn can at right angles to first set of holes and repeat the marking and circle process. Be sure to mark this second set high enough above first set to allow this bar to pass just clear of first bar. If you have a cutting torch or suitable metal saw you can then cut holes in cans. My method, although not too neat, is to drill a series of holes around the circle and then join them by use of wire cutters or a can opener. Insert pipes or bars at right angles to each other. You should have a projection of about six inches on each and outside of the can. Seal the edges around the pipe where it comes through the can with masking tape or some other suitable material to prevent wet cement from seeping out when you make the pour. If you are using chain to provide a shank or shock absorber, work end of it under and around the intersection of the two cross members. I usually tie this end of the chain to the rest of it with a link or piece of wire. You may wish to insert a metal bar with an eye in top end in lieu of the chain. I prefer the chain since normally chain is needed anyway for first few feet on an anchor. It is embedded right into the cement, eliminating shackles and other connections. Suspend the chain over a broomstick or some such support to take all slack out of it while you pour. Add enough water to the ready mix to make a loose cement. I make it wetter than you would for most jobs in order to work it down around and under the cross bars thoroughly so they get socked in completely. This is the potential weak spot in the anchor. Let it set for a few days, and you have a fifty-center.

Ronnie sez—

HELP!!!
I'VE GOT GUIDES COMING OUT OF MY EARS!!!



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BAIT TANK IN A SMALL BOAT

by Tim Coleman

A couple weeks ago we ran a story on using small boats to reach surf fishing spots not accessible even with a four-wheel drive vehicle. Since then, particularly at the recent Norwalk Boat Show, we received inquiries about these small craft, especially the fourteen foot tin boats.

The questions asked were pretty varied with the exception of three different people who wanted to know how to set up a bait tank in such boats. Naturally, there are any number of ways to tackle this problem. Here's one method to consider.

I started out with equipment already in my possession. This was a 151 qt. Igloo cooler for the tank. I've used it for live herring fishing from shore in late May and early June with good results. Now, however, there was a problem of the rocking boat affecting the setup which before had been used in a stationary van. For shore fishing, I'd merely hung a Rule 400 bilge pump down in the cooler in an upright position. The pump sucked water in the bottom and spit it back out the nozzle, aerating the water as it did so. This past July, I tried the same setup while live bunker fishing off Duck Island, but found the rocking boat cut down on the amount of water being circulated. The rocking motion caused the pump to move out of the water, thereby drawing only air into the intake.

The answer was to get a pump with flat sides (unlike the Rule 400, which is circular) and that also had take-apart construction, yet one that wouldn't draw more than 1.5 amps. The best choice seemed to be the Rule 750. It pumps 750 gallons per hour, draws limited amperage and has all the size and construction requirements. The next problem was how to install the pump in a stationary position inside the cooler.

A friend of mine, Charlie Soares came up with the answer to this one. The first thing Charlie did was cut a quarter-inch thick piece of clear plexiglass about one inch bigger than the length and width of the outside casing of the pump. Charlie attached the pump to the glass by first taking the pump apart. Into the sides of the blue or bottom portion of the pump, he drilled two holes that went through the outside of the pump into the plexiglass. **Note:** The holes went into the glass, but not all the way through. This is important. We'll get to the reason in just a second.

Next Charlie took the sheet of glass with the assembled pump fastened to it. Using waterproof epoxy, he cemented the glass to the inside of the cooler about halfway down. Since the glue needed twenty-four hours to set solidly, it needed something to keep it in place in the vertical position. To keep it from falling, Charlie next cut a piece of two-by-two. He wedged this between the side of the cooler opposite the pump and one side of the pump itself. Once the glue took hold, the pump wasn't going any place.

The reason for not using longer screws was not to go into the sides of the cooler. If you did that, you'd lose some of the insulating potential. This is important when keeping baits alive in warm weather. Also you can take the pump apart, unscrew it from the plexiglass, and use the cooler for a fish box or dry storage.

That's the pump in place. Now to getting it to work. Run the two wires from the pump out of the back of the cooler between the hinged top and side. The rubbery, elastic material that rims the cooler will not cut the wires when the top of the cooler is closed. From this point, splice the two wires to wires coming from the female end of a quick disconnect plug. Do the same thing for wires coming from the two battery posts, only naturally, these would be spliced to the male end of the plug. When you push the plug together the pump should do its thing.

Note: This particular pump must have its positive wire hooked to the positive terminal of the battery, and so on. As far as hooking wires to the battery, I'd recommend using alligator clips available in most auto stores.

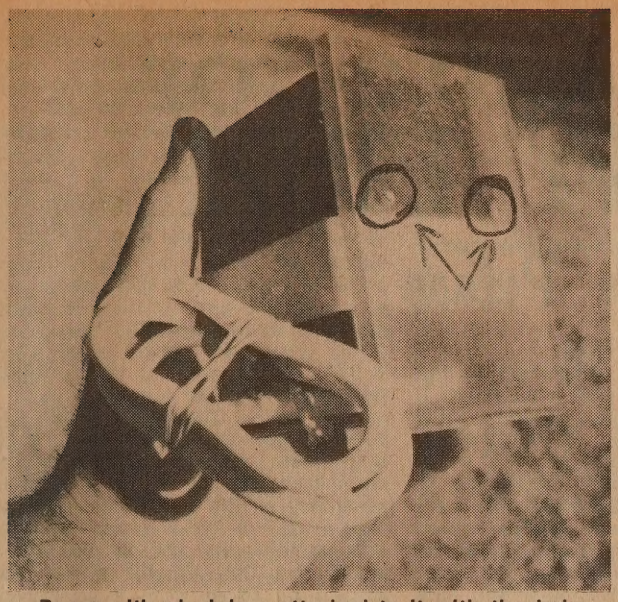
That's the mechanics of setting the pump up and getting it to work. Now a couple words on the components. The pump was mounted halfway down in the cooler for a couple reasons. That depth of water will hold eight to ten herring with no problem, or six to eight bunker. Yet when the boat is under way or rocking, the water will not be high enough, so a lot will splash out.

There will be no problem with foam build-up in the tank when using herring since they live in freshwater. When using bunker, which require brackish water with some salt content, you might have to put a couple drops of Anti-Foam (available in small bottles in some bait stores) into the tank. If you don't want to do this, you can change the water from time to time.

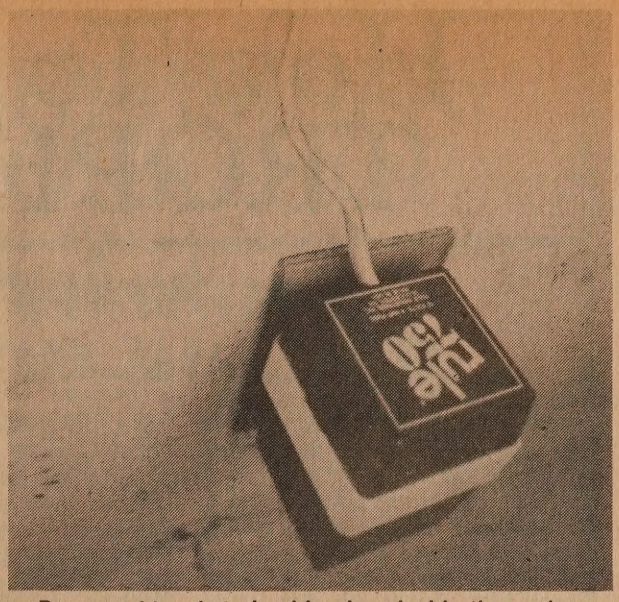
Speaking of changing the water, you will need a five gallon bucket to do this—not to mention filling the tank the first time. The bucket also comes in handy for bleeding bunker after snagging. With a setup like this where there is no freshwater coming into the tank at all times, you can't put bleeding baits in; the blood in the water will kill them. Instead put them in the bucket until the blood coagulates. If the bait doesn't look like he's going to make it from bucket to tank—he probably won't. More than likely his vitals were hit when you snagged him. Better to use him fresh dead with a spark plug or cut him up for chunk bait. Snag another (easier said than done on some days) to take his place.

Last aspect of the tank we'll look at is securing some of the equipment. The cooler rests on a hardwood floor built by a boatyard to fit the contour of the floor between the bow and middle seat. A long bungee cord, fastened to the seat braces on both sides of the boat, holds the cooler in place. The battery was mounted atop the middle seat. There it is out of the way of a person fishing and running the boat (with the aid of an extension handle) from between the stern and middle seat.

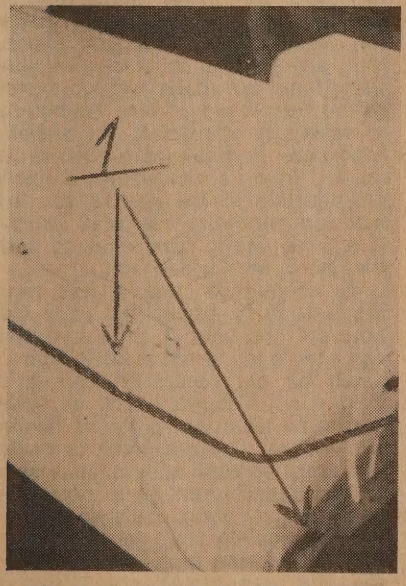
If you don't want to use the cooler as a bait tank, it will readily store quite a few pounds of fish or keep gear dry or stuff like fluke bait out of the sun. The cooler-as-bait-tank idea seems something to consider because it certainly has a lot of uses for a person with a fourteen footer.



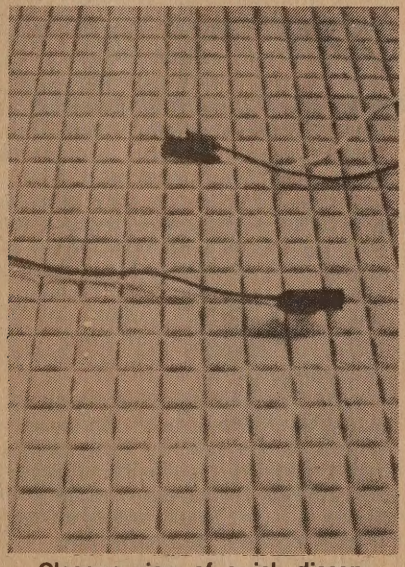
Pump with plexiglass attached to it with the help of two screws. Screws are circled with arrow pointing to them.



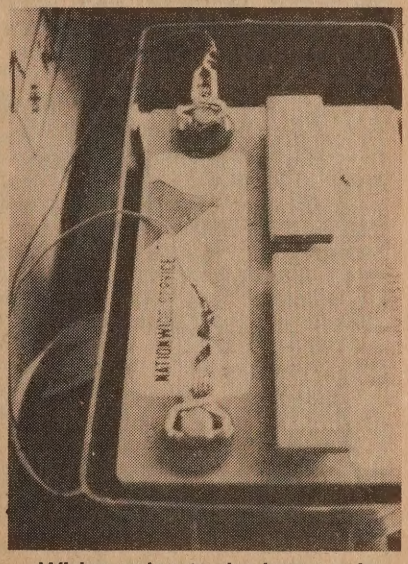
Pump and bracket glued in place inside the cooler. Wiring runs outside to battery and quick disconnect plug.



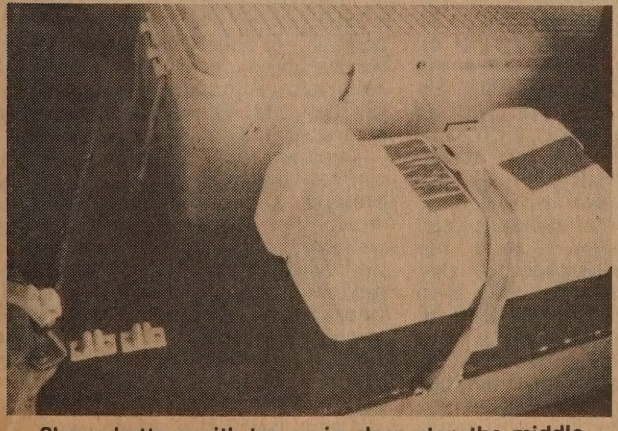
Arrows point to wiring coming out of the tank.



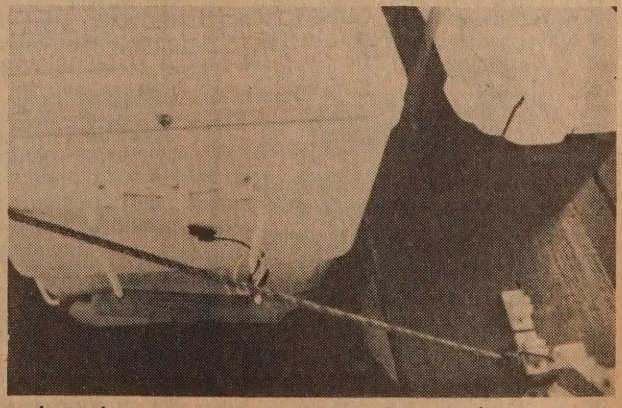
Closeup view of quick disconnect plug running from pump to battery.



Wiring going to the battery. It is held in place on the terminals by alligator clips.



Shows battery with top on in place atop the middle seat of a fourteen foot tin boat.



Long bungee cord attached to the seat braces on either side of the boat and going around the outside of the cooler holds it in place.

How-To Care for TROPHY FISH

by Angelo Peluso

As I walked among the sharks, each suspended in time, I was magnetically drawn to the eyes, the teeth and the sheer beauty of the animals. Perfect specimens surrounded me: a blue, a mako, the unpredictable hammerhead, the tiger and the king of all sharks—the great white. Beyond this vision of sharks, I could see striped bass, some of which topped fifty pounds; bluefish up to twenty pounds; large weakfish; a magnificently colored sailfish and an enormous swordfish. Mixed in with these salty gamesters were brook, rainbow and brown trout, largemouth bass and pickerel.

Had I died and gone to fisherman's heaven? Was this my long dreamed of angling paradise? Well, not exactly. Though these particular fish could satisfy any angler's dreams for quite some time, they were already caught and were being displayed in a taxidermy studio. I had come to the True Life studio to drop off a rather well-proportioned largemouth bass that I wanted mounted. Steve Leeds, owner and operator of True Life, was occupied with another customer at the time of my arrival, so I entertained myself by viewing the wide variety of fish mounts hanging from the walls. As I looked at these life-like trophies, I thought about the pleasures that they would bring to the lucky anglers who caught them.

Steve eventually finished with the other customer and walked out from his desk to talk. I complimented him on his work and wondered aloud if most fishermen appreciate the intricate detail work that goes into a fine mount. Also, I wondered how many anglers realize the importance of their roles in assuring the best possible specimen for a given mount. Steve mentioned that he often gets fish that have not been handled properly by fishermen, and this makes the job of creating a fine trophy doubly difficult. The fact of the matter is that the fisherman, aside from catching the fish, plays a very significant role in determining the quality of the finished mount; though the taxidermist applies his skill to this art form, the angler must apply a bit of common sense with regard to fish preservation. Unfortunately, a fair number of trophy fish are ruined by a lack of understanding on the part of those who catch them. If you are like me, you must work pretty darn hard for that trophy, and I doubt whether you would intentionally risk ruining a lunker that was earmarked for the taxidermist. If you know what to do to ensure quality, I am certain that you will do it.

So it is this article will treat the subject of fishing from the point in time after the fish has been caught, and before the fish is brought to a taxidermist. To begin with, the angler should be prepared on each trip to care for a trophy fish. This implies that the fisherman should also expect to catch a trophy each time out. During a follow-up conversation with Steve Leeds regarding the subject of fish preparation, the following points were discussed.

The fisherman must plan for an impressive trophy even before the fish is caught. Thought must be given as to how the fish will be protected and preserved once it is landed. If possible, the fish should be kept cool; a large-enough ice chest or fish cooler will suffice, provided that the fish can be placed in it without having it bend into shapes that could damage the skin or fins. An alternative method is to place the fish, with its fins closed, in a large plastic bag. Once again, it is important that you give consideration to either of these two methods for preserving your fish **before** you begin your trip. Nothing will ruin a fish faster than placing it in the hot trunk of a car or the exposed bed of a truck. If this is done, deterioration will begin rapidly.

The angler should also plan to carry a camera loaded with good color film. A clear photograph or color transparency is an invaluable reference for the taxidermist attempting to gain a "true to life" mount. All photographs should be taken while the fish is still alive, and should be taken from a variety of angles. If a camera is not available at the time the fish is caught, notes pertaining to the specific color and markings can prove quite helpful. You can indicate on a piece of paper the various color tones and shades that are unique to this particular fish. If you can make a rough sketch of the fish, it would also be helpful to draw the location of any specific markings. A final possibility is to obtain from a magazine a color reproduction of the species you are having mounted. If the color pattern is to your liking, send it along with the fish to the taxidermist.

As mentioned, one of the most vital steps to protecting your fish occurs in the field. A little care here can save a lot of extra work later; a small bit of preparation can go a long way. A burlap sack or towel should be taken along on the fishing trip. When a prized catch is made, the towel or sack should be soaked in water and used as a protective wrap for the fish. This procedure will accomplish two things: firstly, the fish is kept cool, and secondly, the fins and scales are protected from any damage that might occur if the fish is left dangling from a stringer or flopping in the bottom of a boat. In the event that a towel or sack is not available, wet moss or leaves serve as a very acceptable substitute. For additional protection, the fish and its wrapping can then be placed in a cooler or plastic bag.

Once the fish is gotten home, it can be frozen if it is not to be brought to a taxidermist immediately. Prior to freezing, wet the fish well and wrap the fins and tail in wet tissue-type paper. Place a bent cardboard over the tail to keep it from being damaged while in a frozen state. Wrap the entire fish in plastic and seal with freezer tape. When wrapping fish make certain not to allow newsprint to come in contact with the skin, and be especially careful not to place the fish directly in the freezer without

any protective wrapping; direct freezer contact with a fish's skin will cause damaging freezer burn and can ruin a potentially nice mount.

If the fish is to be shipped any distance, via some form of delivery service, wrap it in freezer paper, place it in a plastic bag and wrap that package in about one inch of newspaper. Put the wrapped fish in a box and pack with dry ice. Prior to shipping the fish, notify the receiving taxidermist of the package being sent. Follow up the fish with a separate envelope containing the information about the fish's coloration.

Assuming that you are able to get your fish to the taxidermist in the best possible condition, you are then faced with the decision of the type of mount that you prefer. For all practical purposes, the two choices that are available are a skin mount or a Fiberglas reproduction. Each of these two methods has its own advantages, but a lot depends upon individual preference. For those of you who might be a bit skeptical about having a glass replica of your fish—have no fear. The procedure for creating this type of mount has been so refined over the past several years that, in many cases, it is almost impossible to tell the mount from the real thing. One of the greatest benefits of glass is its durability—it is truly a lifetime mount. Now don't be misled; a good skin mount can also be a lifetime trophy. I have found, though, that skin mounts are much better of freshwater fish than they are of saltwater species. Tough-skinned fish such as freshwater bass usually make better skin mounts than some of the more thinly-skinned trouts. In the final analysis, though, the choice is always yours. Over the past few years I have become more of a believer in the quality and true to life capabilities of the Fiberglas products. I have seen glass striper reproductions that allowed for each and every detail of the fish to show through. Additionally, I have seen skin mounts that looked as though all they needed was some water to swim away in. It would probably be in your best interests to visit the local taxidermy studios and get a feel for the type of work that appeals to you most. That way, when the time comes to make a decision, you'll have already done the preliminary shopping around. After all of the hard work that you go through to get your trophy-sized fish, it will be well worth the time and effort to plan for your mount.

Long Island has a number of excellent taxidermists who are dedicated to the profession, like Fish Unlimited Taxidermy in Babylon, which is the largest in our area and makes great looking Fiberglas and skin mounts. If you want to see some of their mounts on display, give a call to (516) 422-1130 and arrange for a visit to their studios at 207 Little East Neck Rd., Babylon.

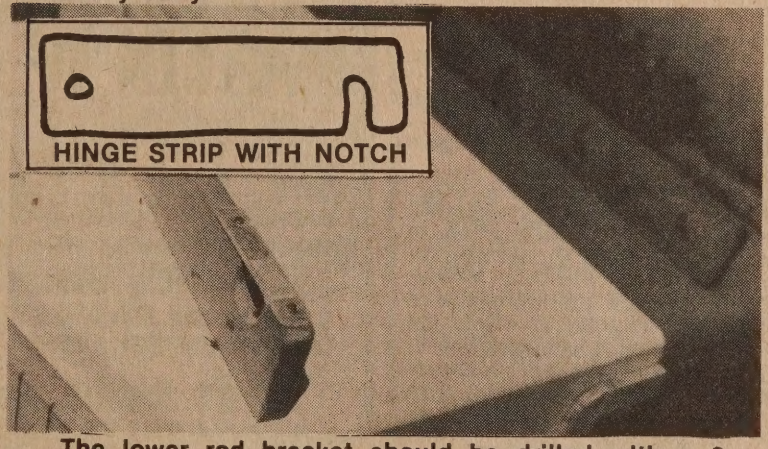
FISHERMAN'S WORKSHOP

CONSOLE ROD HOLDER

Some fishermen find the factory produced rod holders for their center console boats to be either too expensive or hold too few rods. The solution is to build your own holders custom fitted to your boat.

First measure the width of the sides of the console allowing 4 to 6 inches for each rod. It is possible to cram the rods in a small space but it is better to spread them out so they don't tangle together.

Purchase pieces of teak or mahogany from a marine lumber supply store and cut the basic size of the holders on a table saw or radial arm saw. The wood should be an inch thick and approximately 3 to 5 inches wide, depending on the size of the rods you usually carry.



The lower rod bracket should be drilled with a 2 inch hole saw spaced so the centers of the rods will be far enough apart without tangling. The upper bracket is drilled with a 1 or 1½ inch hole saw, close to the edge of the bracket. After the holes are drilled, a saber saw or hand saw will complete the cuts so you now have "U" shaped indents that match the same position of the holders on the lower bracket.

Cut strips of plexiglass or stainless steel, sanding or filing all edges smooth to the shape shown on the diagram. Install the strips by drilling one end with a hole to accept a mounting screw and the other end with a slot to match a screw on the edge of the bracket.

'but adjusting the tension on the screws, the hinges can be made to open or close with more or less tension.

Install the brackets by drilling from inside the console into the brackets and installing 3 inch wood screws. Two screws in each bracket should be sufficient but you can use more if you feel the strength is needed.

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Fish Talk:
WIN A ROD

(Continued from page 9.)

and in to collect the molecules) will be able to compare that smell to other smells that is within the experience of that particular animal. If the dog has had a prior experience with that specific odor or one in the general category, it will recognize it. Dogs are also able to pick up a scent at a much lower concentration than man. Thus, when man picks up an odor, he has trouble matching that odor with those that he has come across before. Frequently, the odor will be a completely new one; while others will be faintly familiar. There are very few odors that are so distinctive and so common in man's experience that he can recognize them quickly. In addition, the exact qualitative components of a given person's olfactory apparatus is not identical to those of other humans. Thus, one man will smell watermelon, while another is reminded of thyme. Actually, the smells of a species of fish, just like man and other critters, results from the specific metabolism of that species. These waste products and mucus mix. Commonly, in fish, skin secretions are mixed with oil which causes the odor to linger and not disperse as easily. The problem arises because we are not used to smelling schools of fish since it is not part of our everyday experience. Even fishermen who spend a lot of time on the water do not have the experience often enough for a single species to be able to categorize it accurately. Now, if all of us were to have frequent experiences and would then agree as to another smell to compare it to, we probably would all agree on the nature of the smell. Can you really tell, for example, the difference between a chicken and a turkey that is roasting in the oven? Think carefully! Isn't it true that on Thanksgiving you are already expecting a turkey and therefore, as you walk in the house you say, "the turkey smells great."

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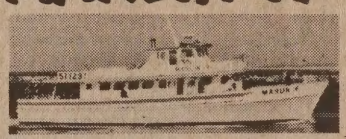

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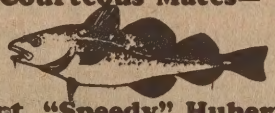

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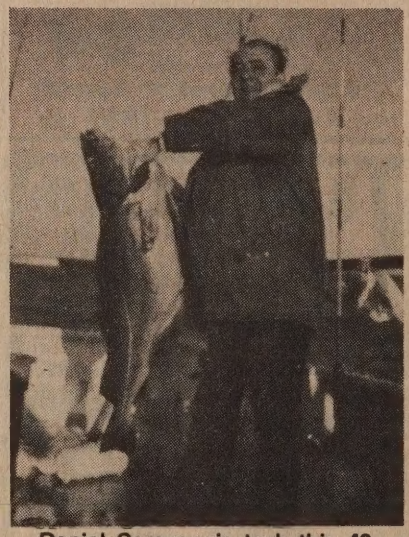

Daniel Caravaggio took this 40 lb. cod on a recent trip aboard Freeport's "Starstream II."

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FISHING REPORTS

MONTAUK

Bunny at the **Viking Fleet** office reports that the **Viking Star** is making catches of cod in the 5-15 lb. range. Pool winners are running in the 20-35 lb. category and that while fishing is not "super," it is definitely good and productive. Catches are averaging 8-10 fish a man and the boat is working off Block Island. Bunny tells us that the Starship down in Key West is continuing to get very good catches of the monster fish that are an everyday thing down there.

Captain Richie Rade of the **Marlin Fleet** tells us that on the days that he is sailing to the Block Island grounds, his fares are enjoying good catches to the tune of 5-10 cod a man, fish of mixed sizes.

CAPTREE

The Captain Scotty had over 30 cod on Thursday's trip and on Sunday, 36 cod flopped over the rail with a few fish in the forties and the remainder of mixed sizes. His

Pictured here is a true red snapper weighing 20½ lbs. taken by Bill Webster of Ontario, Canada aboard the "Viking Starship."

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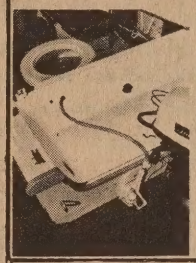

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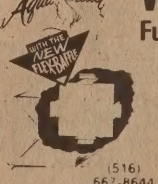

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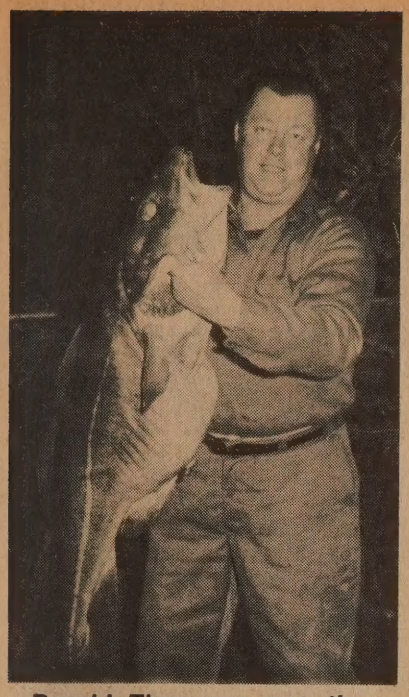

Donald Thompson won the pool on December 30 aboard the "Speedy VI" of Captree, with this 37 lb. cod. Subscriber Club photo.

catches were in 120' of water, SSE of FI Inlet all on clam bait.

Captain Joseph fished approximately the same area and on Sun. accounted for 30 good cod.

FREEPORT

Captain Richie Kessinger of the **Starstream II** reports that Sunday was his best day of the year so far on cod, with a total body count of 71 big codfish, most fish going over 25 lbs. There are also loads of mackerel caught at the change of tide, macks running 1-2 lbs. Sea conditions were very favorable. The pool winner Sunday was Joe Laccorn of Queens, with a 50 lb. cod. Freeport Angler Don Citron had a 41 lber. Junior Bento decked a 39 lber. and Larry McCall of Babylon stuck one weighing 37 lbs. All these catches were on clam. The boat fished southeast of the inlet close to some wrecks. Richie says the trip is only an hour and 10 mins. from the dock. Thursday saw 32 cod for 17 men, four of these fish being in the 35 lb. category.

The **Capt. Al** tells us that Sunday was a super day, to the tune of 102 cod up to 36 lbers. There was a good crowd on board and all hands had fish. The 36 lb. pool fish was taken by Flushing angler Scotty Hogan. High hook was Dan Doyal of Howard Beach with 12 cod. His brother Joe Doyal had 8 cod and there were lots of catches of 6 and 7 fish per man. The boat was working the Cholera Banks. Al says there were many 12-20 lb. fish. Al says this is

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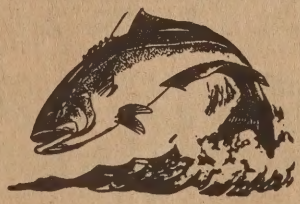

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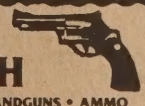
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John Hamilton with a nice sized 13 lb. weakfish taken west of the 3rd Wantagh Bridge on a frozen bunker chunk. Subscriber Club photo.

definitely a new run of fish that has moved in. The boat is now sailing on a 5AM everyday schedule.

Captain Tony on the **Miss Freeport II** tells of excellent whiting fishing his fares have been enjoying fishing the Ambrose area. Catches range anywhere from one-half to a full 5 gallon bucket per man of 1-3 lb. whiting. The boat's new sailing schedule is Wed., Thurs., Sat. and Sunday, with the boat leaving the dock at 9AM.

SHEEPSHEAD BAY

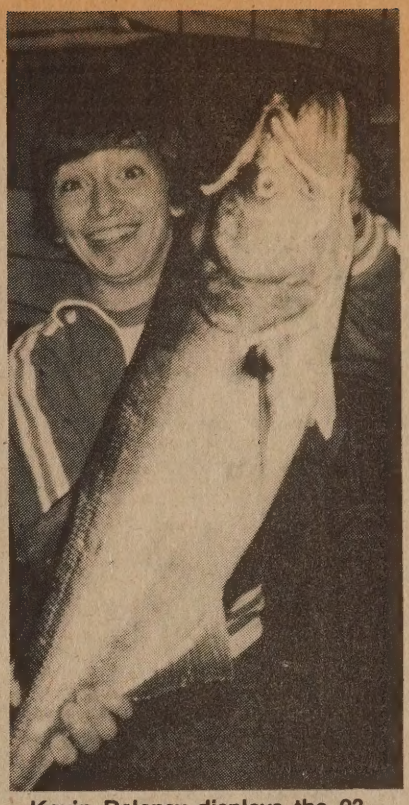
Boats in this port had a rough time getting out to fish on Saturday; but once the water calmed down some on Sunday, whiting action was found at the Ambrose Tower. Boats that went to this area came back with decent catches.

The **Atomic II** did well on whiting and ling; fish running up to 2½ lbs., some even bigger. Catches from one-half to a full five gallon bucket were taken on herring and clam bait.

The **Dorothy B** reported catches up to a high hook of 62 whiting taken on Sunday by Louie Maldando. Crowds were light this weekend, but for those who made it out, catches averaged 25 fish from 1-3⅓ lbs. taken on clam, herring and whiting bait.

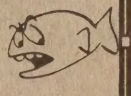
The new **Elsie K III** had catches that ran from one-half to a full five gallon bucket per fare. Whiting strip bait working best. These fish ran up to 2½-3 lbs. The new Elsie K III will be making a special trip every Wednesday for codfish at the Three Sisters Wreck. Come down and give 'em a try.

We were unable to speak to Captain Tom of the **Pilot II**, but it was determined through Captain Al Lindroth that by late morning Sunday Tom had a minimum of 70 cod on the boat. We don't have a final body count, but if details are needed, see the Pilot II ad for phone number and call.



Kevin Delancy displays the 23 lb. bluefish that he landed at Montauk in late November. Subscriber Club photo.

POLLUTION NOTES:



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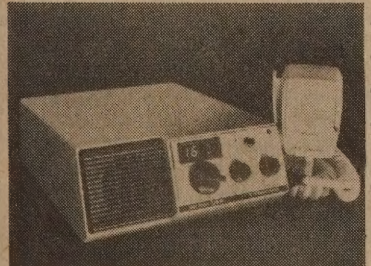

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